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Delhi HC protects Aishwarya Rai's personality rights

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'Campaign against E20 was paid to target me'

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DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

ساڈھ روزنامہ بنگلور

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Vishnuvardhan, Saroja to get K'taka Ratna Award

BENGALURU, 11 SEPT

The State Cabinet on Thursday decided to bestow the Karnataka Ratna award on iconic Kannada film actors Vishnuvardhan and B Saroja Devi posthumously. A resolution was passed to send a letter to the Centre that Rashtra Kavi (poet) Kuvempu should be given the Bharat Ratna, Karnataka Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil said. "The Cabinet today decided that Karnataka Ratna be conferred on Vishnuvardhan and Saroja Devi," Patil told press in City. The Cabinet also decided that it will hold a special cabinet meeting on 12 September on the Upper Bhadra Irrigation Project, which involves acquisition of 75,000 acres of land, the minister said. *—PTI*

RJD worker shot dead in Patna

PATNA, 11 SEPT

An RJD worker was shot dead by unidentified armed assailants near Rajendra Nagar terminal in Patna, police said on Thursday. The deceased is Raj Kumar, alias Ala Rai, a resident of Raghopur in Vaishali district. The incident took place at Munnachak area of Chitragupta and came months before the state assembly elections. According to sources, Rai was expected to contest the polls from Raghopur Assembly constituency. *—PTI*

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10 Naxalites killed in Chhattisgarh

RAIPUR, 11 SEPT

At least 10 Naxalites, including top leader Modem Balakrishna, were killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Gariaband district on Thursday. The gunfight occurred in the forests under Mainpur police station during an anti-Naxalite operation, police said. Balakrishna, a CPI (Maoist) Central Committee member and Odisha State Committee secretary, had joined the movement in the 1980s. So far in 2025, 241 Naxalites have been killed in the state, 212 in Bastar, 27 in Gariaband, and 2 in Durg division. The deceased include Chalpathi alias Jairam, another Central Committee member. In January, 16 Naxalites were killed in the same Mainpur area. *—PTI*

India asks Russia not to recruit Indians for war

Indians told to stay away from such risky jobs

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

India has urged Russia to end the practice of recruiting Indian nationals into its military, amid rising concerns over citizens being forced into combat roles in the Ukraine conflict. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed on Thursday that it has taken up the issue with Russian authorities in both Moscow and New Delhi.

"We have seen reports about Indian nationals having been recruited recently into the Russian Army," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, adding, "We have taken up the matter with Russian authorities, asking that this practice be ended and our nationals released."

The move follows a report in The Hindu detailing the plight of two Indian men allegedly forced into frontline roles after being lured to Russia with false promises of construction jobs. Speaking from Selydove in Donetsk, the men said they had entered Russia on student or visitor visas and were now deployed in the warzone. They claimed at least 13 other Indians were in similar situations.

The ministry reiterated earlier warnings, strongly advising citizens not to accept such offers, citing the "risks and dangers" involved. "We once again strongly urge all Indian nationals to stay away from any offers to join the Russian army," Jaiswal stated.

According to official figures, 126 Indians have previously been recruited into the Russian military. Of these, 96 have been released, 12 have died, and 16 remain missing. India continues to press for the release of all Indian nationals serving as support staff, such as cooks and helpers, with Russian military units.

The MEA confirmed that it remains in contact with the families of affected individuals and will continue to work towards their safe return.

This is the latest in a series of diplomatic interventions by India over the issue since the conflict in Ukraine escalated. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 6

According to official figures, 126 Indians have previously been recruited into the Russian military *PHOTO: PTI*

- MEA said it remains in contact with the families of affected individuals and is working towards their safe return.

Charlie Kurk is seen getting shot in the neck during a college event at Utah Valley University; FBI released a photo of the suspect and announced $1,00,000 reward *PHOTO: PTI*

SHOOTER STILL AT LARGE

Don ally Kirk shot dead

OREM, 11 SEPT

Charlie Kirk, a 31-year-old conservative activist and close ally of President Donald Trump, was shot dead during a public event at Utah Valley University on Wednesday. The Governor of Utah, Spencer Cox, called the killing a "political assassination" and vowed justice in a state with the death penalty.

Authorities say The Turning Point Founder was struck by a single sniper shot fired from a rooftop approximately 180m away at the university's Losee Centre in Orem, Utah. The assailant, dressed in dark clothing, fired the shot before jumping off the roof and fleeing the scene. Despite an intense manhunt involving federal, state, and local agencies, the shooter remained at large at the time of publication.

Two individuals were detained but were later released. Officials continue to investigate multiple crime scenes, however, no motive was revealed.

The bolt-action rifle used has been found, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said

The shooting was captured on video and rapidly spread on social media. The footage shows Kirk speaking under a tent emblazoned with slogans like "The American Comeback" before the fatal shot struck his neck, causing panic among spectators.

Trump announced that he will posthumously award Kirk the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honour. *—PTI*

> **No one understood or had the Heart of the Youth in the United States of America better than Charlie. He was loved and admired by ALL, especially me, and now, he is no longer with us. Melania and my Sympathies go out to his beautiful wife Erika, and family. Charlie, we love you! (sic)**
>
> -Donald Trump, US President

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The Army also extended prohibitory orders in three districts of Kathmandu Valley *PHOTO: PTI*

Nepal calm but impasse over interim govt still on

KATHMANDU, 11 SEPT

The deadlock over the selection of an interim head to run the Nepal government continued on Thursday.

The representatives of youth-led Gen Z, which spearheaded the anti-government protests, held meetings with the top military brass to finalise a transitional government, but the talks hit a roadblock on the issue of who will head it.

Former chief justice Sushila Karki, Kathmandu Mayor Balendra Shah, former CEO of Nepal Electricity Authority Kulman Ghising and Mayor of Dharan Harka Sampang were among those being considered by the protesting Gen Z group to lead the government.

The Army also extended prohibitory orders in three districts of Kathmandu Valley while allowing public movement during specific windows.

Meanwhile, a Ghaziabad woman died after protesters set a Kathmandu hotel on fire. She jumped from the fourth floor to escape the blaze.

However, the situation other parts of the country remained peaceful, with army troops carrying out patrolling in sensitive areas. The death toll from two days of violent protests that began on Monday has increased to 34, according to officials.

This comes as three inmates were killed during clashes with security at a jail, while over 15,000 prisoners have escaped from more than two dozen prisons, as several protestors have stormed the facilities and forced the gates open. The number of prisoners who died has reached eight. *—PTI*

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Possible terror strike averted with 5 arrests in India

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

A Pakistan-based terror module was busted and five operatives were arrested after the Special Cell of Delhi Police and Central agencies carried out coordinated raids across multiple states, an official said on Thursday.

The module was in touch with Pakistan-based handlers and was planning a major attack in the country, he said.

The mastermind, Ashar Danish alias Ashrar Qureshi, was apprehended from Ranchi, while two suspects, Aftab and Sufiyan, both residents of Mumbai, were arrested from Delhi. Muzapa was held from Telangana, while Kamran, has also been arrested, a official said. The suspects were radicalised through social media by a Pakistan-based handler. *—PTI*

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M'rashtra to move SC over Almatti dam height

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

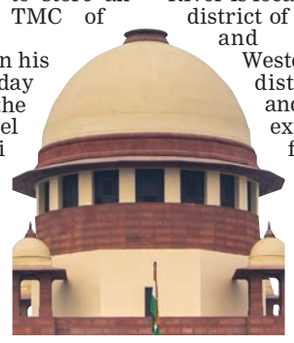
The Maharashtra government today said that it will challenge any move by Karnataka to increase the height of the Almatti Dam in the Supreme Court. This statement by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis comes a day after Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah hinted that the height of the dam would be raised to store an additional 100 TMC of water.

Siddaramaiah in his X post on Wednesday had said that the water storage level in the Almatti reservoir for water utilization in Phase-3 of the Krishna Melmandale Project would be raised from 519 meters to 524 meters. It is estimated that an additional 100 TMC of water will be stored as a result, the post said.

Last month, the Maharashtra government had approached the Centre on this issue with Fadnavis writing to Union Minister of Jal Shakti C R Paatil, flaying Karnataka's proposed move to increase the height of the dam.

Almatti Dam on the Krishna River is located in the Bijapur district of North Karnataka and borders with Western Maharashtra districts of Sangli and Kolhapur which experience regular flooding during the monsoons.

It is feared that raising the height of the dam could worsen the situation. *—PTI*



CRPF: RAHUL NOT SERIOUS ABOUT SECURITY

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has flagged certain security protocol "violations" allegedly by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during his movements, official sources said on Thursday.

According to information received here, the VIP security unit of the paramilitary force has sent a letter to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, stating certain "unscheduled movements without intimation" by Gandhi during his domestic visits as well as before he left for abroad.

A copy of the said communication has also been marked to Gandhi's office, according to the sources.

The Congress party reacted to the development, raising questions over the timing of the communication and wondering whether it was a "veiled attempt" to intimidate its leader after he announced "another imminent disclosure" on "vote chori". BJP, however, asked "what is Rahul hiding?" on his foreign trips. *—PTI*

RENAMING OF SHIVAJINAGAR METRO STN DRAWS FLAK

BENGALURU, 11 SEPT

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's nod to a proposal to name the upcoming metro station near Shivajinagar after St Mary has elicited objections from Maharashtra which has termed the move as appeasement.

Participating in the inauguration of the annual feast at St Mary's Basilica on 8 September, Siddaramaiah said his government would recommend to the Centre on the request made at the function. The metro station is part of an under construction on the Pink Line in the city.

"A request has been made to name the metro station after St Mary. I have spoken to Rizwan Arshad the local MLA on which station should be given the said name and based on the discussion, we will send a recommendation to the Centre," Siddaramaiah had said.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said, "Karnataka's decision to rename metro rail was an insult to the great warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, who is highly revered across the country and world." *—PTI*

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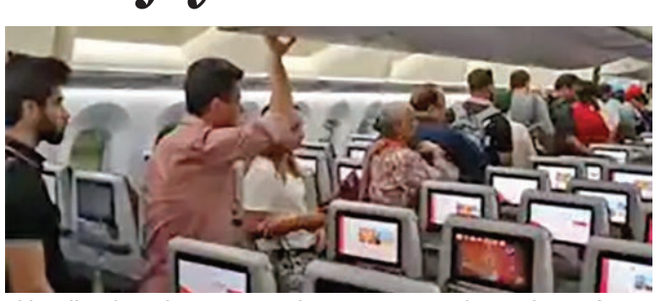
DREAMLINER TROUBLES

AI flyers stuck in Delhi for 6 hours due to AC glitch



Video clips showed passengers using newspapers and magazines to fan themselves inside the aircraft *PHOTO: PTI*

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

At least 200 passengers on a Singapore-bound Air India plane had a harrowing time at the Delhi airport as they were first deboarded from the aircraft due to cabin temperature issue and were later flown to their destination after a delay of nearly six hours.

The flight AI2380, to be operated with a Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft, was scheduled to take off around 11 pm on Wednesday. However, all passengers were deplaned after being seated for nearly two hours as the air conditioning system and electric supply system were faulty, according to a PTI journalist who was on the plane.

Air India said on Thursday that flight AI2380 from Delhi to Singapore was delayed due to a cabin cooling issue on ground.

The passengers were taken to the terminal building and the crew did not provide any specific reason for the decision to deplane them, the PTI journalist said. Video clips shared on social media showed passengers using newspapers and magazines to fan themselves inside the aircraft before they were deplaned. *—PTI*

M'rashtra woman kills self over dowry harassment

JALGAON, 11 SEPT

A 23-year-old Mayuri Gaurav Thosar took her own life reportedly due to ongoing harassment from her in-laws in Jalgaon of Maharashtra. The tragedy struck just four months after her marriage and a day after her birthday. According to her family, Mayuri suffered relentless mental and physical torment, alongside demands for financial support. Despite the family's claims, no FIR has been filed as police seek to investigate the matter further.

This follows another tragic case where 28-year-old Nikki Bhati was fatally burned by her in-laws in Noida, highlighting the urgent need to address domestic abuse and dowry-related violence in the region. *—Agencies*

Help is available. Please call Tele Manas at 14416, SAHAI at 080-25497777 for support

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The BJP brought in the law to allow the use of ballot papers in the local body elections. The Election Commission laws also allow use of ballot papers.

-DK Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

Fadnavis flays renaming Shivajinagar Metro Station

CM floats idea of calling it St Mary Metro; BJP cries appeasement

MUMBAI, 11 SEPT

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday slammed the Congress government in Karnataka for its move to rename Shivajinagar metro rail station in City after St Mary.

State Chief Minister Siddaramaiah recently said his government would consider renaming the City's Shivajinagar Metro Station after St Mary following a request made during the annual feast at St Mary's Basilica. His deputy DK Shivakumar had claimed there is nothing unusual in responding to such community requests.

Talking to reporters in Mumbai, Fadnavis said, "I condemn the move. Its an insult to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The Congress has continued its tradition of insulting the Maratha warrior king since the time of Nehru who made comments against Shivaji Maharaj in his book Discovery of India."

Fadnavis said he was praying that the Almighty gives Siddaramaiah sense to not go ahead with such a decision that is based on religion and was against the Maratha warrior king.

Several Maharashtra leaders also objected to the proposal, echoing Fadnavis' concerns.

Shiv Sena (UBT), the Congress's ally in Maharashtra, has said it will write to Siddaramaiah and urge him to name the station after Shivaji.

"The BJP should not stoke the fire. We will talk to our ally and find a solution," Anand Dubey, the party spokesperson said.

Similarly, Opposition in the State called the proposal further proof that the Congress was motivated by vote bank politics.

BJP's Chalwadi Narayan Swami, the Leader of the Opposition in the State Legislative Council, said, "Will they remove the name Shivajinagar? They should not go beyond the limits. Appeasement has become the first choice of the Congress party."

—Salar News with Agencies

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said it was an insult to the late Maratha king, while Shiv Sena (UBT) said they would write to their 'ally' Congress **PHOTO: PTI**

CABINET DECISION

Govt approves water, health funds

BENGALURU, 11 SEPT

The State Cabinet approved a series of massive projects and grants for irrigation and health. Announcing this on X on Thursday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the government had laid down new guidelines for ministers at public events.

IRRIGATION

The Cabinet approved the construction of 100 MLD capacity secondary wastewater treatment plant and 25 MLD tertiary wastewater treatment plant on Bairamangala Lake banks in Bengaluru at Rs 391.82 crore. The government also approved Rs 109 crore to lift water from Tungabhadra river in Raichur district and provide water to 10,000 acres of irrigation areas.

The Cabinet approved the development of Hebbakkavadi branch canal and Nidaghatta branch canal under the Visvesvaraya Jala network in Malavalli and Maddur taluks of Mandya district at Rs 293.47 crore. It also approved Naganur Lake development works for drinking water supply to Shiggaon town in Haveri district at Rs 105.19 crore.

HEALTH

The government vowed to renovate taluk-level hospitals at Malur, Magadi, Kushalnagar, Koratagere, Jagalur, Savanur, Ramadurga and Savadatti as well as Davanagere District Hospital and Vensak Hospital in Mangaluru at Rs 542 crore.

The government also approved 100 beds each at estimated cost of Rs 50 crore at Bellahalli, Yelahanka, Bengaluru and at Agriculture Department premises in Hebbal, and Rs 20 crore for Victoria Hospital refurnishing.

HOUSING

The government committed Rs 398 crore in 22 selected assembly constituencies to transform backward colonies inhabited by minorities into model colonies.

MINISTER GUIDELINES

Ministers will select only nine dignitaries to be present on the stage at government's public events. In the case of emergencies, this can go up to 13, he added.

—Salar News

Ilaiyaraaja offers diamond crown to Udupi temple

UDUPI, 11 SEPT

Renowned music composer Ilaiyaraaja offered a diamond-studded crown valued at around Rs 4 crore to Goddess Mookambika at the famed Kollur temple in Udupi district on Thursday, temple authorities said. Earlier, he had donated a diamond-studded hand ornament to the deity. This time, he also presented a silver crown adorned with diamonds for Lord Veerabhadra and a silver sword, they said. According to temple authorities, the crown and ornaments were brought to the temple in a ceremonial procession from the Olaga Mantapa to the main shrine, accompanied by traditional panchavadyam music. After the priests performed rituals, the offerings were formally dedicated to the deity.

—PTI

PHOTO: X

Vigilante Kerehalli placed under preventive arrest

BENGALURU, 11 SEPT

Hindutva activist and cow vigilante Puneeth Kerehalli was placed under preventive arrest and remanded in judicial custody for seven days due to his alleged refusal to give an undertaking to a magistrate. According to City Police, Kerehalli, already implicated in 14 serious cases, was taken into preventive custody on 10 September to prevent further offences. A case was registered under Section 127 (wrongful confinement) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The police statement explained, "He was asked to furnish a bond stating that he would not engage in any criminal activities further." Following his refusal to comply, the Special Executive Magistrate ordered his judicial custody, citing concerns for public peace and safety. *—PTI*

City set to host All India Chit Funds Summit-2025

BENGALURU, 11 SEPT

The Karnataka Chitsters' Association announced the upcoming All India Chit Funds Summit 2025 in the City on 13 September. This significant event will gather leading chit fund companies and experts to explore the sector's digital transformation. The Association remarked that chit funds, integral to India's informal financial system, are experiencing a revolution through digital technologies that enhance transparency and inclusivity. "The sector is now embracing innovations such as blockchain, mobile payments, and artificial intelligence," it stated. Currently, organised chit funds have an annual turnover of around Rs 35,000 crore, with the unregistered sector potentially circulating Rs 30 lakh crore. Association President TC Vijayakumar highlighted, "The sector is now expanding at nearly 20 per cent," bolstered by technology-driven initiatives. *—PTI*

USHERING IN NEW BLOOD

Arathi Krishna, Ramesh Babu, FH Jakkappanavar and Shivakumar K took oath as State Legislative Council members, in the presence of CM Siddaramaiah and DyCM DK Shivakumar **PHOTO: SALAR**

Govt approves massive changes to Krishna Upper Bank Project

BENGALURU, 11 SEPT

The State government announced several changes for the Phase-3 of the Krishna Upper Bank project, including increasing the budget for the project and acquiring the land in one stage, instead of two.

The decision was announced by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah after a meeting in Vidhana Soudha on Wednesday.

"Initially, the project cost for the implementation of the project was estimated at Rs. 51,148 crore," he said on X. "Now, it has been estimated at a revised Rs. 87,818 crore. An appropriate decision will be taken in the Cabinet" meeting, which is reportedly scheduled on Friday.

Nearly half the amount is set to be allocated for the land acquisition.

"(It) was initially estimated at Rs. 17,627 crore," he said. "Currently, the revised amount is estimated to be Rs. 40,557.09 crore.

Siddaramaiah claimed the government was committed to compensating farmers who lose their land.

He added that the government would acquire the land in one stage, instead of the previously planned two stages.

"A total of 1,33,867 acres of land acquisition is required for the project implementation, including 75,563 acres of land that will be submerged in the reservoir," Siddaramaiah said. "So far, land acquisition awards have been issued for 29,566 acres. 59,354 acres of land have been subjected to the land acquisition process." *—Salar News*

CT Ravi booked for hate speech in Maddur

MANDYA, 11 SEPT

A case has been registered against BJP leader and MLC CT Ravi for allegedly making inflammatory comments during a Ganesha idol immersion event in Maddur town in Mandya, police said on Thursday.

On Wednesday, a BJP delegation took part in a mass Lord Ganesha idol immersion event in Maddur, in an apparent show of strength against the stones pelting that occurred during a Ganesha procession on 7 September.

In his address at the event on Wednesday, Ravi allegedly made provocative remarks targeting the minority community. Based on a complaint by a police officer, a case was registered against him for threatening communal peace, at Maddur police station.

"When I was 14 years old, a case was filed against me. They filed a case because I fight for Hindutva and for the people," Ravi said in a video statement after the case was lodged. "Who (was) provoked? Those who pelted stones?... Those who raised pro-Pakistan slogans? I had said if you do such acts, we will not tolerate it but will react." *—PTI*

CT Ravi, along with several BJP leaders and workers led a Ganesha immersion in Maddur after the communal stone pelting **PHOTO: SCREENGRAB**

IMD issues orange alert for City

BENGALURU, 11 SEPT

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange alert for both the urban and rural districts of Bengaluru, warning of very heavy rainfall between 11cm and 20cm. The Meteorological Centre in Bengaluru has predicted moderate rain and thundershowers with gusty winds reaching 30 to 40km in isolated areas. Residents are advised to proceed with caution due to potential temporary power disruptions, damage to properties, and the risk of uprooted weak tree branches.

The City recorded significant rainfall in the past 24 hours, with 52.8mm noted until 5.30am on Thursday. Neighbouring Kolar district's Tamaka received an even higher 102mm. Other parts of Karnataka, including Kalburgi and Gangavati, experienced rainfall ranging from moderate to heavy.

The forecast anticipates a generally cloudy sky over the City for the next 48 hours, with light to moderate rain and possible heavy spells. The expected daily temperatures are around 27°C maximum and 20°C minimum, with heavy rain anticipated in various districts over the coming days. *—PTI*

City woman duped of ₹3.7 cr with Sadhguru's AI video

BENGALURU, 11 SEPT

A 57-year-old retired woman was duped of Rs 3.75 crore by fraudsters who allegedly used an AI-generated deepfake video of spiritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev to trick her into investing in an online trading platform, police said on Thursday.

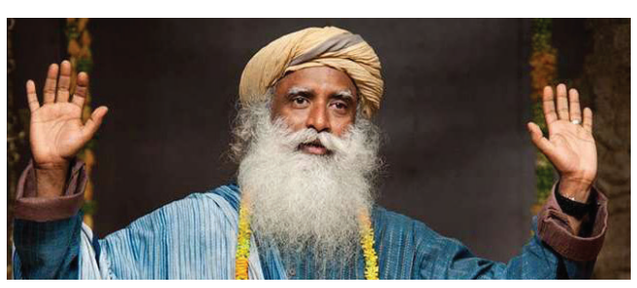
The woman, a resident of CV Raman Nagar, who claimed to be unaware of deepfake technology fell for the video while she was scrolling through Youtube , they said.

In her complaint, the woman alleged that on 25 February, when she was watching Youtube videos, she came across an "AI-generated Youtube video" of Sadhguru stating that he had been trading with the firm, of which link was provided below and if you click and put your name, email, phone number for an amount of USD $250, your finances will improve greatly.

Believing that the link provided in the description of the alleged video was genuine, she clicked on it and was later contacted by a person named Waleed B, the FIR stated. According to FIR, Waleed reached out to her through multiple UK-based mobile numbers and asked her to download Mirrox application.

He also conducted trading lessons for her over Zoom app. Another person, Michael C gave lessons when Waleed was unavailable. From 25 February to 23 April, the woman invested Rs 3,75,72,121 from her bank accounts to those provided through the alleged trading platform application, it added.

The woman realised that she was duped when she tried to withdraw her profits and approached the police with a complaint nearly five months after the incident, a senior police officer said. The officer, however, said recovery of the lost money would be difficult, but they are coordinating with banks to freeze the alleged accounts into which money was transferred by the complainant. *—PTI*



Dr G denies attending ABVP event: Will die in Cong

BENGALURU, 11 SEPT

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Thursday asserted that he was a true Congressman and will die as one, while denying his participation in an Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) event.

Responding to a question on the controversy surrounding his attendance at an event organised by RSS student wing ABVP for Rani Abbakka in Tumakuru, he said he only paid floral tributes to her statue during a procession.

Rani Abbakka was a Tuluva Queen of Ullal who fought the Portuguese in the latter half of the 16th century.

"I did not attend any ABVP event. While I was on my way, a procession of Rani Abbakka was going on. Our local MLA (from Tiptur) Shadakshari was with me. I was told to offer floral tributes to Rani Abbakka's procession. I stopped my car, offered flowers and came back, that's all. I did not attend the ABVP programme or anything," Parameshwara said in City. "

Asserting his ideological commitment, he said, " I'm a true Congressman, I will die as a Congressman." *—PTI*

B'luru police starts wellness programme for its personnel

BENGALURU, 11 SEPT

In collaboration with Happiest Health, Bengaluru City Police has initiated Project Khushi, a comprehensive health and wellness programme aimed at combating lifestyle-related diseases among its personnel. Given the rise of conditions like diabetes and hypertension, the programme is tailored for officers who face unique health challenges due to long working hours, high-stress environments, and irregular routines.

The programme merges physical sessions with digital learning, comprising six live classes over three months led by the experts in endocrinology, nutrition, ayurveda, yoga, and mindfulness. Alongside, weekly digital content—including web stories, articles, videos, and tips—will be provided, complemented by a dedicated WhatsApp support group offering daily exercise prompts and nutrition advice. *—PTI*

A MESSAGE OF HOPE

A village unites to light up a blind couple's life

RAICHUR, 11 SEPT

For Rangappa, a visually challenged young man from Yermarus village in Raichur, life changed forever at Mahatma Gandhi Chowk. He got married and may soon start a business.

"At Mahatma Gandhi Chowk, I asked a person to help me cross the road. His name was Mallu. I requested him to get me a companion if he knew any. He assured me that he would try," Rangappa told press on Wednesday night during his marriage reception in Yermarus.

Mallu introduced Rangappa to Nagaraj. He found a companion -- Narayanamma -- from Doddakannahalli in Malur Taluk of Kolar district, who too is visually challenged.

"This marriage was solemnised on 6 September at Doddakallahalli. Raichur Municipal Corporation member Narasa Reddy arranged the entire programme," Rangappa said.

With no parents or siblings to support him, Rangappa relied on his extended family and villagers. .

For Rangappa, his marriage is a message of hope.

"I hope that the visually challenged people from the economically weaker sections get support from society as well as the government to lead a dignified life. I have a desire to have my own business," he said. *—PTI*

Cong bandh affects life in Tripura's Kailashahar

AGARTALA, 11SEPT

Normal life came to a standstill in Kailashahar, Unakoti district, on Thursday during a 12-hour bandh called by the Tripura Congress. The shutdown, which began at 6am, was held to press an 11-point charter of demands, including revival of the dormant Kailashahar airport and extension of the railway link to the district headquarters. Educational institutions, banks, markets and most government offices stayed closed, while vehicles remained off the roads. Congress workers blocked roads in some areas by burning tyres, though police reported no untoward incidents. The situation was peaceful but warned of action against violence. Congress leader Birajit Sinha said the bandh was successful and 250 party workers were detained. *—PTI*

PHOTO: ANI

Vijay's TVK gets cops' nod for meet on 13 September

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI, 11 SEPT

Police have cleared actor Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) campaign at Marakkadai on 13 September, under 23 strict conditions. The event, ahead of next year's Assembly elections, will be confined to Tiruchirappalli and limited to 25 minutes between 10.35am and 11am. Participants must arrive an hour earlier due to heavy pedestrian and commercial activity. Roadshows, receptions and vehicle processions are banned, with only Vijay's car and five support vehicles permitted. TVK must organise parking without disrupting traffic and provide drinking water, first-aid, ambulance and firefighting equipment. TVK has accepted the restrictions. Minister KN Nehru said the curbs were imposed to prevent inconvenience to the public. *—PTI*

Immigration clearance eased at 5 airports

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday expanded the Fast Track Immigration–Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP) to five more airports — Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchirappalli, Kozhikode and Amritsar — taking the total to 13. The scheme offers pre-verified Indian nationals and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card holders automated e-gate clearance in about 30 seconds, removing queues and manual checks. Launched at Delhi airport in July 2024 and later extended to seven other hubs, it is now planned for 21 major airports. Registration is free through ftittp.mha.gov.in, with biometrics collected at FRROs or airports. 2.65 lakh people are using it. *—PTI*

Pleas filed against Kunbi certificates to Marathas

MUMBAI, 11 SEPT

Several petitions were submitted to the Bombay High Court challenging the Maharashtra government's decision to issue Kunbi caste certificates to members of the Maratha community seeking reservations for education and public service. The petitions argue the government's resolution is arbitrary, unconstitutional, and politically motivated, aimed at appeasing Maratha members. One petitioner, Manoj Sasane, sought to amend his earlier plea against the inclusion of Marathas in the OBC category to contest the government action. The government's resolution, issued following a hunger strike by activist Manoj Jarange, allows eligible Marathas to obtain Kunbi certificates, bolstering their claim for OBC reservations. OBC communities expressed dissatisfaction over dilution of their share of benefits. *—PTI*

Ahead of PM's visit, BJP members resign in Manipur

They cite lack of consultation as reason behind resignation

IMPHAL, 11 SEPT

At least 45 BJP members on Thursday resigned in Phungyar constituency of Manipur's Ukhrul district, days before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's likely visit to the northeastern state.

Those who stepped down from the party's Phungyar Mandal in the Naga-majority district include the mandal president, heads of Mahila, Yuva and Kisan morchas, and booth presidents of the constituency.

The state BJP is yet to comment on the resignations.

The BJP members said they were "deeply concerned over the present state of affairs within the party" and highlighted "lack of consultation, inclusiveness, and respect for grassroots leadership" as key reasons behind the step.

Modi is likely to arrive in Manipur on 13 September, in what would be his first visit to the state since the ethnic violence broke out between Meiteis and Kuki-Zo people in May 2023.

I DON'T HAVE THE CHOICE TO STAY QUIET BECAUSE FLORENCE & OLIVIA DIDN'T HAVE THE CHOICE TO LIVE
AN AMBULANCE SHOULD TRANSPORT THE INJURED, NOT AMMUNITION OR

45 BJP members in Manipur have resigned ahead of the much anticipated visit of Prime Minister Modi to the state **PHOTO: PTI**

The Centre had imposed President's rule in Manipur in February.

Meanwhile, security measures have been tightened in Imphal and Churachandpur district headquarters.

Both state and central forces personnel were deployed in and around the Kangla Fort in Imphal and Peace Ground in Churachandpur, where a grand stage is being constructed for the Prime Minister's function.

Frisking and checking were intensified. Security forces also intensified search operations and area domination throughout all vulnerable and fringe areas of the state.

The Manipur government also requested the United Naga Council, the Naga apex organisation in the state, to withdraw the indefinite economic blockade along the National Highway in Naga-dominated areas.

Manipur chief secretary Puneet Kumar Goel said the Ministry of Home Affairs has been engaging with the UNC on the issue of fencing of the international border between India and Myanmar in Naga-inhabited areas.

UNC leaders met with Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla-led team on 8 September.

The Naga leaders were requested to withdraw the strike soon. *—PTI*

FORGING STRONGER TIES

India, Mauritius to facilitate trade in local currency: Modi

VARANASI, 11 SEPT

India and Mauritius will work towards enabling bilateral trade in local currencies, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday after holding wide-ranging talks with his Mauritian counterpart Navinchandra Ramgoolam.

Modi said India and Mauritius are two countries, but their dreams and destiny are one.

The Prime Minister said that a free, open, secure, stable and prosperous Indian Ocean is a shared priority of both countries.

India is fully committed to strengthening the security and maritime capacity of Mauritius' Exclusive Economic Zone, he said.

Modi also congratulated Ramgoolam and the people of Mauritius on the conclusion of the Chagos agreement, describing it as a "historic victory" for the island nation's sovereignty.

"India has always supported decolonisation and the full recognition of Mauritius's sovereignty. And in this, India has stood firmly with Mauritius," he said.

In May, the United Kingdom decided to hand over the sovereignty of Chagos Islands, including tropical atoll of Diego Garcia, to Mauritius under a historic deal.

The UK is giving up the rights of the islands after more than 50 years.

Under the agreement, the UK will have full responsibility for security of strategically-located Diego Garcia.

Ramgoolam is currently on a state visit to India from 9 to 16 September.

It is Ramgoolam's first overseas bilateral visit to India in his present term. He will also visit Ayodhya and Tirupati.

Prime Minister Modi visited Mauritius in March. *—PTI*

Prime Minister Modi said that a free, open and secure Indian Ocean is a shared priority of India and Mauritius **PHOTO: PTI**

RJD worker shot dead in Patna

Police suspect more than two individuals to have been involved in the murder of Raj Kumar **PHOTO: X**

PATNA, 11 SEPT

An RJD worker was shot dead by unidentified armed assailants near Rajendra Nagar terminal in Patna, police said on Thursday.

The deceased has been identified as Raj Kumar, alias Ala Rai, a resident of Raghopur in Vaishali district.

SP (Patna East), Parichay Kumar said that the incident took place in street number 17, near Rajendra Nagar terminal on the night of 10 september. Immediately after receiving the information that a person was shot at by unidentified persons, police reached the spot and took the victim to the nearest hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries during treatment.

Police have recovered six spent cartridges from the spot. It is suspected that more than two persons were involved in the incident.

Though the exact cause of the incident is not known, locals said that Kumar was active in politics and associated with RJD. He was also involved in the purchase and sale of land. Police are investigating the matter from all angles and also analysing CCTV footage to nab the accused.

Police recorded the statement of the deceased's driver. RJD spokesperson (state unit), Ejaz Ahmad expressed shock over the murder. *—PTI*

Rahul slams Bihar govt after police hit protesters

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has slammed the NDA government in Bihar after police baton-charged protesters in Patna.

However, it was not clear whether he was referring to the baton charge of workers protesting the state government's move to suspend 16 land surveyors on strike for the past two weeks or the one against aspirants staging a sit-in protest demanding the release of supplementary results of a Teacher Recruitment Exam.

Gandhi on Wednesday said that this time the youth of the state will show the government its real place in the Assembly elections, and the countdown has begun.

Sharing a video of police baton-charging protesters, Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X, "When employment is asked for, one gets lathicharge. Instead of rights, one gets atrocities."

Assembly elections in Bihar are slated to be held in the next couple of months. *—PTI*

AIADMK is strong, says BJP TN chief

MADURAI, 11 SEPT

BJP Tamil Nadu Chief Nainar Nagenthiran stated on Thursday that the AIADMK (All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) is robust in the state and there is no need for the BJP to undermine it, dismissing accusations from opponents.

"The AIADMK is strong. There's no need for the BJP to break that party. We have accepted its general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami to head the alliance. So, what he says about his party matters to us," Nagenthiran remarked to reporters.

He rejected claims that the opposition party was in crisis, citing Palaniswami's rally attendance as indicative of substantial support. Regarding AIADMK leader KA Sengottaiyan's recent meeting with Amit Shah, Nagenthiran stated he lacked details.

He also expressed willingness to negotiate with former Chief Minister O Panneerselvam and AMMK leader TTV Dhinakaran to reintegrate them into the NDA alliance. *—PTI*

PMK chief Ramadoss expels son for anti-party activities

CHENNAI, 11 SEPT

Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) founder S Ramadoss on Thursday expelled his son and working president, Anbumani Ramadoss, from the party's primary membership, citing "unprecedented anti-party activities."

The announcement followed a high-level council meeting at Ramadoss's Thailapuram farmhouse near Chennai. At a press conference, he alleged Anbumani failed to respond to 16 charges, including running a parallel party structure and allegedly placing a surveillance device on his father's chair.

"The weed called Anbumani has been removed from the PMK," Ramadoss said. The rift reportedly widened after Ramadoss appointed his grandson P Mukundan as youth wing president in late 2024, a move opposed by Anbumani.

PHOTO: PTI

Mediation efforts by BJP and RSS leaders, and VIT Chancellor failed. Ramadoss offered to take back cadres loyal to his son. *—Agencies*

India welcomes Gor's nomination as US envoy

NEW YORK/ WASHINGTON, 11 SEPT

India's Ambassador to the US, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, welcomed the nomination of Sergio Gor as the next US ambassador to India, viewing it as an indication of the significance of bilateral ties.

Kwatra tweeted, "I welcome that President Trump is sending one of his most trusted aides, @SergioGor to serve as the next US Ambassador to India," emphasising its importance and commitment to strengthening relationships. Gor will face the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for confirmation. *—PTI*

TMC downplays murmurs of cross-voting in VP poll

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

Amid speculation of cross-voting during the vice presidential election, Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Derek O'Brien stated on Thursday that the government focuses on critical issues rather than minor vote discrepancies.

O'Brien remarked, "Instead of concentrating on 15 votes here and there, the government should address pressing matters such as the 862 days of violence in Manipur." His comments followed a surprising win for CP Radhakrishnan, who received greater support than expected in the elections.

"These are the important numbers for which the Modi government needs to be held accountable," O'Brien added.

Radhakrishnan was elected the 15th Vice President of India with 452 votes, while opposition candidate Suderashan Reddy garnered 300 votes. Following the results, BJP leaders claimed that at least 15 opposition MPs had cross-voted in favour of Radhakrishnan, countering claims of unity among opposition MPs. *—PTI*

PHOTO: ANI

- O'Brien remarked, "Instead of concentrating on 15 votes, the government should address matters like violence in Manipur."

AAP's protest against Doda MLA's detention foiled

SRINAGAR, 11 SEPT

Police on Thursday foiled a protest march of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) against the detention of its Doda MLA Mehraj Malik by not allowing the party members, including Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, to move out of the Circuit House where they have been put under house arrest.

Singh, along with other AAP members arrived in Srinagar on Wednesday and was scheduled to hold a sit-in protest at the Press Enclave here.

The AAP members were staying at the Circuit House in Sonwar area of the city.

However, a posse of police was deployed outside the Circuit House and its gates were closed.

In a video message, Singh described the police action as "dictatorship".

Malik, who won the Doda seat in the 2024 assembly elections was detained on 8 September for allegedly disturbing public order. He was lodged in the Kathua district jail.

Tension prevailed in Doda district and adjoining areas on Thursday following the detention of over 80 people and violent clashes between protesters and security forces after Malik's arrest. *—PTI*

AAP MP Sanjay Singh in a conversation with JKNC President Farooq Abdullah after he was placed under house arrest in Srinagar **PHOTO: ANI**

PLEA CLAIMED FORGERY

No case against Sonia over voter list row

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

A Delhi Court on Thursday dismissed a plea seeking FIR against Congress leader Sonia Gandhi for having her name in the electoral rolls of 1980, three years before getting Indian citizenship, allegedly by using forged documents.

Additional chief judicial magistrate of Rouse Avenue Courts pronounced the order.

The plea was filed by Vikas Tripathi seeking criminal action against Gandhi.

The counsel for Tripathi had submitted that the threshold of being an Indian citizen has to be crossed first before including a name in the electoral roll. He had said that in order to become a voter, it has to be first verified that a person is a citizen of India or not.

Sonia Gandhi **PHOTO: ANI**

The court observed that the petitioner made an attempt to invoke the provisions related to the offences of cheating and forgery under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita in order to prove a colour of jurisdiction before the court.

Mere assertions not accompanied by the essential particulars required to attract the statutory elements of forgery cannot substitute a legally sustainable accusation. This amounted to the misuse of the process of law by projecting an ordinary dispute in the grab of criminality, solely to create a jurisdiction where none existed, the court said.

The counsel said that Gandhi's name was later deleted from the electoral rolls of 1982 because the Election Commission might have realised that documents were forged to include her name in the list. Sonia's son Sanjay Gandhi was also removed from the electoral roll. He passed away in 1981.

The counsel for the petitioner said that only Sonia and Sanjay's names were removed at that time. *—Agencies.*

- The court said that the petitioner made an attempt to invoke the provisions related to the offences of forgery in order to prove a colour of jurisdiction.

PM desperate to curry favour with RSS leadership: Cong

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

The Congress on Thursday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his article on Mohan Bhagwat, saying the "over-the-top tribute" to the RSS chief on his 75th birthday was a "desperate bid" to curry favour with the Sangh leadership.

Praising Bhagwat for his intellectual depth and empathetic leadership, Prime Minister Modi has said that his tenure as the head of the RSS will be considered the most transformative period in its 100-year journey.

Modi said he is a living example of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "The PM, who himself claimed to be non-biological, makes his pravachans appear as if they are God-se."

Congress leader Manickam Tagore took a swipe at the PM. *—PTI*

- Praising Bhagwat for his intellectual depth and leadership, Modi said that his tenure as the RSS chief was the most transformative period.

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM

2 held for hunting and cooking python in Kerala

KANNUR, 11 SEPT

Two men have been arrested in Panapuzha, northern Kerala, for allegedly hunting and cooking a python, forest officials said on Thursday. The accused, Pramod and Bineesh, both local residents, are alleged to have captured an adult python from a nearby rubber plantation on Wednesday evening. Officials said the reptile was killed and its meat cooked into a curry at Pramod's house. Acting on a tip-off, Thaliparamba Range Officer Suresh P and his team raided the residence, seizing parts of the snake and the prepared dish. A case was registered under the Wildlife Protection Act. The two suspects were produced before a court on Thursday and remanded in judicial custody..*—PTI*

HC chides T'gana police over social media cases

HYDERABAD, 11 SEPT

The Telangana High Court has ruled that automatic or mechanical arrests are impermissible and stressed that proportionality must guide the criminal process. Justice Tukaramji on Wednesday quashed three FIRs filed against BRS social media worker Nalla Balu, also known as Durgam Shashidhar Goud, and directed police to follow established arrest guidelines. Police had booked him for allegedly posting objectionable messages on social media critical of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the Congress party, claiming one post sought to provoke unrest. The court held that political criticism cannot attract criminal sanction without intent to incite violence or disturb public peace. BRS leader KT Rama Rao hailed the verdict. *—PTI*

Centre defers exam guidelines rollout for disabled

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

The government has delayed the rollout of its revised guidelines for competitive examinations for persons with disabilities until 31 December, citing lack of preparedness among examining bodies and the interests of candidates. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) said all exams notified this year may continue under the existing framework, while candidates using assistive technologies may be "accommodated and encouraged" where feasible .The move follows last month's notification of stricter rules under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, which restrict private scribes and require vetted scribe pools. The department will hold consultations before finalising the system.*—PTI*

'90-degree' MP bridge has turn of 118-119 degrees

BHOPAL, 11 SEPT

A rail overbridge in Bhopal has sparked public outcry and memes due to its controversial 90-degree turn, which an expert report submitted to the Madhya Pradesh High Court has clarified as a turn of 118-119 degrees. The state government requested more time to reconsider its decision to blacklist the construction firm M/s Puneet Chadha, involved in the project. The company claims it faced undue action without a fair hearing.. Following the controversy, seven PWD engineers were suspended, and a five-member committee was formed to investigate the design flaws. The court has scheduled the next hearing for 17 September and directed the sharing of the expert report with all parties involved. *—PTI*

Pakistani terror module made bombs: Cops

The kingpin, an English graduate, was called CEO, Gazba and Professor

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

Ashar Danish, the kingpin of the Pakistan-based terror module who was arrested along with four others, used to be known under different names such as CEO, Gazba and Professor, an official said. Danish alias Ashrar Qureshi, 23, is an English honours graduate, police said.

"The raids were carried out after intelligence inputs indicated that a module was planning a major terror attack in the country. We have been tracking them for the last six months," the official said.

Searches at multiple locations have led to the recovery of a large quantity of chemicals, ball bearings and other materials used in making Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) were recovered, he said.

The police conducted the raids based on intelligence inputs that a module was planning a major terror attack in the country. The police have been tracking the accused for the past six months *PHOTO: ANI*

"Police teams recovered components and electronic equipment used in making IEDs. Several chemicals, including sodium bicarbonate, along with gas masks, electrical cables, fuse points, wires and other electrical equipment were seized," he added.

The accused were allegedly planning to acquire land, declare it a 'Khilafat zone' and wage 'jihad' in India, Additional Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Pramod Kushwah said at a press conference in New Delhi on Thursday.

In Ranchi, a raid at Danish's hideout led to the recovery of chemicals and other materials suspected to be used in making explosives, police said.

Police said the handlers used only social media platforms for communication.

The suspects are being interrogated and efforts are underway to ascertain their network, funding and potential targets. The Central agencies are analysing the digital devices seized from the suspects to track their contacts and possible international links, police said.

The arrests have averted a possible terror strike in the country, they added. *—PTI*

- Searches at multiple locations have led to the recovery of a large quantity of chemicals, ball bearings and other materials used in making Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) were recovered. Components and equipment used in making IEDs were recovered.

Hindu, Muslim cops must probe 2023 riots: SC

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

The Supreme Court, while observing that a person after putting on the police uniform must rise above all kinds of biases, on Thursday asked for a special investigation team (SIT) with both Hindu and Muslim officers to probe the May 2023 riots in Maharashtra's Akola.

One person was killed and eight others were injured in the violent clash in May 2023 over a social media post in Akola.

The top court pulled up the Maharashtra police over a "biased" probe into the communal riots.

The order came after a petition alleged the Maharashtra police did not probe an assault case filed by petitioner, Mohd Afzal Mohd Sharif.

The plea filed against a Bombay High Court order sought civil and criminal actions against the erring police officers for dereliction of their duties, inaction and biased investigation of the

communal riots.

The plea stated that on May 13, 2023, communal violence broke out in Akola, resulting in the death of Vilas Mahadevrao Gaikwad and serious injuries to Sharif.

Sharif claimed to be a victim of severe assault.

The police did not register any case or investigate although serious cognizable offences were disclosed, the plea alleged. The petitioner had approached the high court, that refused to grant any relief and dismissed the writ petition. *—Agencies*

SC asks can it 'sit idle' if governor fails in duty

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

Calling itself the "custodian of the Constitution", the Supreme Court on Thursday asked if it could "sit idle" if a constitutional functionary like Governor failed to discharge duties as it reserved the verdict on the presidential reference on grant of assent to bills.

The court heard on the presidential reference centering around Article 200 and 201 and whether constitutional court can impose timelines for governors and President to assent to bills.

The court interjected Solicitor General Tushar Mehta Mehta when he referred to the separation of powers as one of the basic structures of the Constitution and said the

court should not fix timelines and interfere with the discretionary powers of governors.

He outlined governors' discretionary powers in the case of promulgation of ordinance by the state government.

He underscored the constitutional discretion to governors and President in certain contexts. *—PTI*

Delhi HC protects Aishwarya Rai's personality rights

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

The Delhi High Court has protected the personality rights of Bollywood actor Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, barring online platforms from illegally using her name, images for commercial gain.

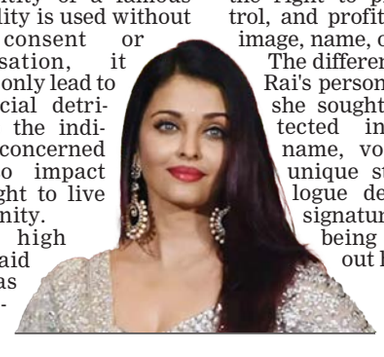
The high court said when the identity of a famous personality is used without their consent or authorisation, it may not only lead to commercial detriment to the individual concerned but also impact their right to live with dignity.

The high court said Rai has established a prima facie case for the grant of an ex-parte injunction.

The suit relates to misappropriation of various aspects of her personality, which the defendants are using them for their own commercial gain without obtaining her consent.

The right to publicity is the right to protect, control, and profit from one's image, name, or likeness.

The different aspects of Rai's personality which she sought to be protected include her name, voice, image, unique style of dialogue delivery and signature that were being used without her consent. *—PTI.*



The Air Surveillance radar can detect friendly and hostile air and surface targets like drones within a particular coverage *PHOTO: ANI*

Tata delivers 'home-grown' surveillance radar to Navy

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

The Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL), in collaboration with engineering major Indra, has manufactured an advanced naval air surveillance radar which is being billed as a major milestone.

The TASL said that with the production of the 3D Air Surveillance Radar (3D-ASR), it has become the first Indian company to demonstrate the capability to build and integrate next-generation naval surveillance radar systems.

Tata Advanced Systems Limited, in collaboration with Indra, successfully delivered and commissioned the first 3D-ASR -- Lanza-N, aboard an Indian Navy warship.

Its induction followed rigorous sea trials, during which various naval and aerial platforms were deployed to test performance.

A radar assembly, integration and testing facility was established at Tata Advanced Systems' facility in Karnataka.

"By leveraging on-ground synergies, technical expertise, and a robust local supply chain, we are building a strong ecosystem for advanced defence technologies," Sukaran Singh, chief executive officer and managing director of TASL said.

Lanza-N can detect friendly and hostile air and surface targets within a space. *—PTI*

ED conducts raids in Rs 650 cr fake ITC case

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday launched extensive search operations across Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana as part of its investigation into a massive fake Input Tax Credit (ITC) scam involving approximately Rs 650 crore.

The raids, which began early Thursday, target premises linked to suspects implicated in generating fraudulent ITC through fake invoices without any actual supply of goods or services.

"Such fraudulent claims not only harm the exchequer but are often associated with money laundering and shell companies," officials remarked. The searches are being conducted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), following intelligence from Goods and Services Tax (GST) authorities.

This operation builds on previous raids tied to a Rs 750 crore ITC scam, highlighting ongoing concerns over tax evasion and fraudulent financial practices. *—PTI*

EVERGREEN MELODIES

Over 17,000 students made it to the India Book of Records by singing Bhupen Hazarika's popular song 'Manuhe Manuher Babe' in Assam's Nagaon district as part of the maestro's birth centenary celebrations. Hazarika was a legendary Assamese singer and recipient of Dada Saheb Phalke award *PHOTO: PTI*

SpiceJet's plane faces tailpipe fire

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

A SpiceJet plane bound for Kathmandu faced a suspected tailpipe fire at Delhi airport on Thursday, prompting a precautionary return to the bay. According to the airline, the aircraft, a Boeing 737-8, was delayed for over four hours.

"On September 11, 2025, a SpiceJet aircraft scheduled to operate from Delhi to Kathmandu returned to bay after another aircraft on the ground reported a suspected tailpipe fire. No warnings or indications were observed in the cockpit, but the pilots decided to return as a precautionary safety measure," the airline stated.

The aircraft underwent engineering checks and was cleared for operations.

Meanwhile, at Raipur's Swami Vivekananda Airport, a lightning strike damaged the DVOR navigation system, causing five IndiGo flights to be diverted. *—PTI*

CATASTROPHIC EFFECT

Glacier retreat in Arunachal poses flood risk: Scientists

ITANAGAR, SEP 11

A new study has found evidence of rapid glacier retreat, expanding high-altitude lakes and enhancing flood risk in the Mago Chu sub-basin of western Arunachal Pradesh, one of the most ecologically significant headwater zones of the Brahmaputra river.

The glaciers of the basin have lost nearly 28.5 per cent of their area between 1988 and 2019, equivalent to over 15 square kilometres of ice.

The research was carried out by the Centre for Earth Sciences and Himalayan Studies (CESHS) here in collaboration with the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), IIT Roorkee, IIT Guwahati and other partner institutions.

The glaciers of Mago Chu sub-basin have lost 28.5 per cent of their area between 1988 and 2019 *PHOTO: PTI*

Larger glaciers have fragmented into smaller ones, particularly on the south-west facing slopes, where ice loss is almost 50 per cent.

The Equilibrium Line Altitude, a critical indicator of glacier health, rose by about 137 metres in the same period, confirming that the glaciers are not being replenished and remain in a state of negative mass.

The glacial retreat will impact the Brahmaputra basin across India, Bhutan and Bangladesh. *—PTI*

India needs USD 10 tr by 2070: Environment Min

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav on Thursday called climate finance the "make-or-break issue" for global climate action and said developed nations have a moral duty to help the Global South shift to a low-carbon economy.

Addressing a FICCI event, he noted India will need over USD 10 trillion by 2070 to reach net-zero emissions and urged global financial systems to unlock private capital with transparency and accountability. Public budgets must de-risk and crowd in private investment rather than bear the entire burden. Yadav highlighted India's strong sovereign green bond uptake and regulatory oversight by the RBI and SEBI. *—PTI*

Hyd housewife stabbed to death by domestic helpers

HYDERABAD, 11 SEPT

A 50-year-old woman was tied up, hit with a pressure cooker and stabbed to death, allegedly by two helpers at her flat in a high-rise apartment complex in Kukatpally here.

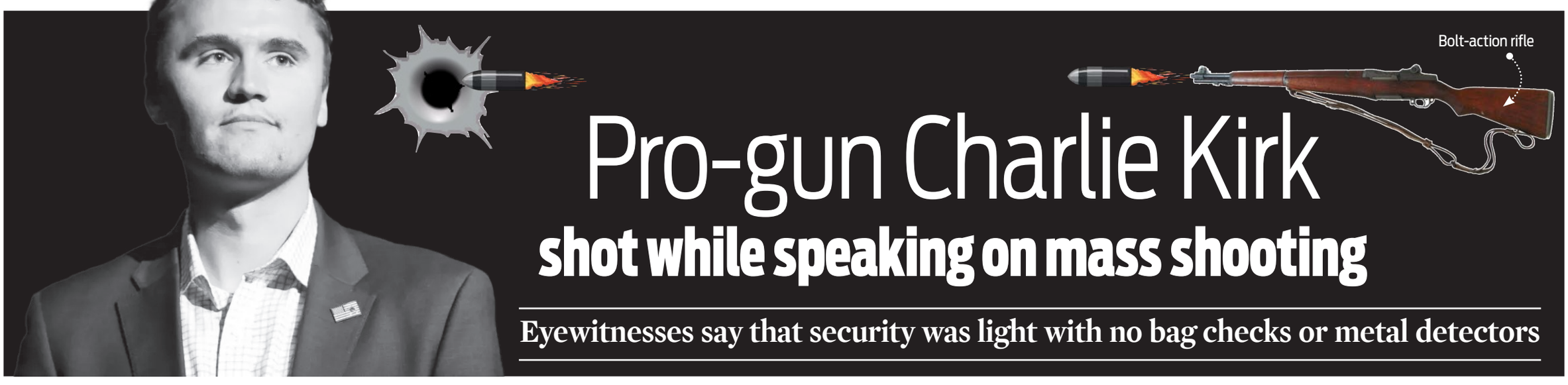
Five teams have been formed to nab the suspects, police said on Thursday.

The incident occurred between 3 pm and 4.30 pm on Wednesday. The prime suspect, Harsha, 21, is from Jharkhand and was employed at the woman's residence around 11 days ago.

A police team reached the spot after getting information and found the woman lying in a pool of blood.

The main suspect, along with another domestic help of a neighbourhood's flat, tied up the woman's hands and legs and stabbed her with knives and scissors, a police official said.The duo then took gold ornaments weighing three to four tolas and some cash and fled.

The victim resided at the flat with her husband, a steel businessman, and their son. The family hails from Kolkata and Harsha was hired through a manpower agency. The suspects are from a village near Ranchi. CCTV footage showed them driving away on a two-wheeler belonging to the second suspect's owner. *—PTI*



Pro-gun Charlie Kirk shot while speaking on mass shooting

Eyewitnesses say that security was light with no bag checks or metal detectors

UTAH, 11 SEPT

In An ironic twist, American conservative commentator and vocal gun rights advocate Charlie Kirk was shot dead while speaking on gun violence at a student debate event in Utah on Wednesday.

Kirk, 31, was addressing a crowd of nearly 3,000 people at the Sorensen Centre courtyard at Utah Valley University, in an event hosted by his organisation Turning Point USA, when the fatal shot was fired. The incident occurred as Kirk was answering a question about mass shootings.

Before the shooting, he was seated at his "Prove Me Wrong" debating table, taking questions from an audience outdoors.

"Do you know how many transgender Americans have been mass shooters over the last 10 years?" asked an attendee.

Just moments before his death, Charlie Kirk addresses a crowd of nearly 3,000 people at the Sorensen Center courtyard at Utah Valley University; People run for cover after a gunshot rings out ***PHOTO: SCREENGRAB***

Kirk replied, "Too many." As the tense exchange continued, a single gunshot rang out, fatally hitting Kirk.

Eyewitness Madison Lattin, seated just feet away, described the scene as "terrifying." "Blood was dripping down. People screamed, others ran, some were trampled," she said. Security was notably light, no bag checks or metal detectors, only six university police officers and Kirk's private security.

The shooting comes amid increasing political violence in the US, including last year's assassination attempt on Donald Trump and other recent attacks across party lines. Authorities confirmed that the campus was immediately evacuated, and nearby homes were being searched for leads.

Kirk, known for his defence of the Second Amendment, once said:

> **It's worth it to have a cost of, unfortunately, some gun deaths every single year, so that we can have the Second Amendment to protect our other God-given rights... That is a prudent deal**
>
> -Charlie Kirk on gun violence in 2023

"It's worth it to have some gun deaths every year so that we can have the Second Amendment to protect our other God-given rights."

He advocated for an armed citizenry, arguing it comes with a cost. Kirk was also a staunch opponent of gun control measures, insisting the solution to gun deaths lay in stronger family structures and more armed security, particularly in schools.

The event, part of Kirk's "American Comeback Tour," had already stirred controversy on campus. Nearly 1,000 students signed a petition to cancel his appearance, but university officials upheld their commitment to free speech.

Utah Valley University will remain closed until Monday. Police continue their investigation, and the motive behind the shooting remains unknown. *—PTI*

Kirk wooed the youth for Trump with Turning Point

OREM, 10 SEPT

Charlie Kirk was a leading figure in the populist conservatism reshaping the Republican Party under Donald Trump.

Kirk founded Turning Point USA in 2012 at just 18 after Barack Obama's re-election, aiming to engage young conservatives and promote low taxes and limited government on liberal-leaning college campuses. What began modestly soon evolved into a dominant conservative force, boasting over 2,50,000 student members and known for its flashy, high-energy events featuring pyrotechnics and strobe lights.

A staunch Trump loyalist, Kirk helped steer Turning Point's political wing to run get-out-the-vote campaigns during Trump's 2024 bid, playing a key role in securing Arizona, Turning Point's home base , by five points, a reversal from 2020.

Kirk's firebrand style was evident across his popular podcast, radio shows, and campaign appearances. At a Georgia rally with Trump, he declared the election a "spiritual battle" and led crowds in chanting "Christ is King!", asserting, "This is a Christian state. I'd like to see it stay that way."

Charlie Kirk, a close ally of Donald Trump, raised funds for the 2024 poll campaign and organised transport for Republican supporters to attend the Washington DC rally before the Capitol riots ***PHOTO:WIKICOMMONS***

A polarising figure, Kirk frequently debated liberal students on campus, staunchly opposing abortion and championing conservative values. He often referred to Democrats as representing "everything God hates."

Kirk, married with two young children, had become a regular presence on conservative media and college campuses. His rise, fuelled by influential right-wing donors and his close relationship with Donald Trump Jr, made him a defining voice in modern Republican politics. *—PTI*

The controversial life of Kirk

Kirk was known for his provocative and often divisive public statements across a range of sensitive political and social issues. His controversial takes earned him both fierce criticism and loyal followers. Here are a few:

Civil rights and race

Kirk made headlines in December 2023 when he called the Civil Rights Act of 1965 a "huge mistake," claiming it created a "permanent bureaucracy" that pushed diversity, equity and inclusion. He also described Martin Luther King Jr. as "awful" and "not a good person."

During his 2021 "Exposing Critical Racism" tour, Kirk labelled George Floyd "a scumbag," suggesting that the public reaction to his death was exaggerated and manipulated by dishonest voices. He frequently criticised the Black Lives Matter movement and dismissed Juneteenth as "anti-American," calling it part of a "neo-segregationist" push to replace Independence Day.

Immigration and the "great replacement"

Kirk consistently opposed immigration, both legal and illegal. In a viral 2024 post during the US-India trade talks, he wrote, "Enough already. We're full," claiming Indian immigrants had displaced American workers. He also promoted the racist "great replacement" conspiracy theory and compared Covid-19 vaccine mandates to apartheid.

Abortion

A staunch pro-life advocate, Kirk supported a total abortion ban, even in cases of rape. "Every abortion is wrong," he stated repeatedly, claiming his stance was rooted in Christian doctrine.

Support for Israel

On the Gaza conflict, Kirk defended Israeli airstrikes, blaming civilian deaths on Hamas and supporting regime change in the territory. *—Agencies*

> **Charlie Kirk was a true friend. We celebrated weddings and babies, bust each other's chops, and mourned the loss of loved ones. We talked about politics and policy and sports and life**
>
>
>
> -JD Vance, US VP

> **Charlie was a good man, who stood by his Biblical value... And we must pick up the baton where Charlie left it. And we must fight for a better America**
>
>
>
> -Ben Shapiro, political analyst

> **We don't yet know what motivated the person who shot and killed Charlie Kirk, but this kind of despicable violence has no place in our democracy**
>
>
>
> -Barack Obama, ex-US president

> **From the assassination attempts of President Trump to Brian Thompson, the United Healthcare CEO, being murdered. Now to Charlie Kirk. The danger was actually on the Left. If they won't leave us in peace, then our choice is fight or die**
>
>
>
> -Elon Musk, ex-Trump ally

> **Political violence only leads to more violence. And I pray with all my heart that this is the aberrant action of a madman and not a sign of things to come**
>
>
>
> -Stephen Colbert, Late Night host. His show was cancelled for criticising Trump .

Don blames 'Left' for the murder

WASHINGTON DC, 11 SEPT

US President Donald Trump has described the killing of right-wing political commentator and conservative activist Charlie Kirk a "dark moment for America" and accused the "radical Left" of inciting such political violence.

In an address late Wednesday (local time), Trump paid tribute to Kirk, calling him a "patriot" and a "martyr for truth and freedom".

"Charlie inspired millions, and tonight all who knew him and loved him are united in shock and horror. Charlie was a patriot who devoted his life to the cause of open debate and the country that he loved so much, the United States of America... He's a martyr for truth and freedom... Our prayers are with his wife, Erica, the two young beloved children, and his entire family, who he loved more than anything in the world... This is a dark moment for America," he said.

Trump also condemned what he described as years of "demonisation" of conservative voices, which he claimed had created a culture of violence.

"For years, those on the radical left have compared wonderful Americans like Charlie to Nazis and the world's worst mass murderers and criminals. This kind of rhetoric is directly responsible for the terrorism that we're seeing in our country today, and it must stop right now," he said.

Trump referenced several high-profile incidents of violence in recent years, including the assassination attempt on himself at a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, last year, as examples of what he called a "pattern of politically motivated attacks" by the far left. *—ANI*

HELP IN TROUBLE: KIRK'S WIFE POSTED BIBLICAL VERSE BEFORE MURDER

Erika Kirk, the wife of conservative MAGA influencer Charlie Kirk, shared a Bible passage about asking for help when things get tough just hours before her husband was shot dead. Kirk shared Psalm 46:1 on X on Wednesday afternoon, writing, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

MAGA BACKERS BLAME 'SOUTH PARK' FOR KIRK'S DEATH

Comedy Central has reportedly pulled the 6 August episode of 'South Park', titled 'Got a Nut', following backlash after the assassination of Kirk. The episode, part of Season 27, featured Eric Cartman parodying Kirk, portraying him as a viral conservative influencer opposing "woke" culture, critical race theory, and climate change. Set against ICE raids led by DHS Secretary Kristi Noem, the episode also mocked Kirk's Christian faith and his campus events. While Kirk had initially embraced the parody, MAGA supporters later criticised the show, suggesting it may have contributed to the assination.

NASA BANS CHINESE NATIONALS FROM ITS PROGRAMMES

WASHINGTON DC, 11 SEPT

The United States Space Agency NASA has begun barring Chinese nationals with valid visas from joining its programmes, underscoring the intensifying space race between the United States and China.

The move comes amid escalating anti-China rhetoric under US President Donald Trump's administration. The US and China are competing to send crews to the moon.

The US Artemis programme, a follow-up to the Apollo landings from 1969-72, is targeting a 2027 landing but has suffered cost overruns and delays. China, by contrast, aims to land its "taikonauts" by 2030 under its program and has recently been more successful at meeting deadlines. *—Agencies*

S Korean Prez says firms hesitant to invest in US

SEOUL, 11 SEPT

South Korea's president has said that South Korean companies will hesitate to make direct investments in the United States, if the US fails to improve its visa system for Korean workers.

In a news conference marking 100 days in office, Lee called for improvements in the US visa system as he spoke about the 4 September immigration raid in Georgia that resulted in the arrest of more than 300 South Korean workers at a battery factory under construction at Hyundai's sprawling auto plant.

The massive roundup in Georgia, and US authorities' release of video showing some workers being chained and taken away, sparked widespread anger and a sense of betrayal in South Korea.

Lawmakers from both Lee's liberal Democratic Party and the conservative opposition decried the detentions as outrageous and heavy-handed, while South Korea's biggest newspaper compared the raid to a "rabbit hunt" executed by US immigration authorities in a zeal to meet an alleged White House goal of 3,000 arrests a day.

The raid came less than two weeks after a summit between President Donald Trump and Lee, and just weeks after the countries reached a July agreement that spared South Korea from the Trump administration's highest tariffs, but only after Seoul pledged USD 350 billion in new US investments. Lee said the Korean workers are set to be brought home on Friday aboard a charter plane following negotiations with the US. *—PTI*

Student kills self after shooting 2 in Colorado school

DENVER, 11 SEPT

A student shot two of his peers Wednesday at a suburban Denver high school before shooting himself and later dying, authorities said.

The handgun shooting was reported around 12.30 pm at Evergreen High School in Evergreen, Colorado, about 30 miles west of Denver in the Rocky Mountain foothills.

Shots were fired both inside and outside the school building, and law enforcement officers who responded found the shooter within five minutes of arriving, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office spokesperson Jacki Kelley said. The high school with more than 900 students is largely surrounded by forest. It is about a mile from the centre of Evergreen, which has a population of 9,300 people. *—PTI*

9/11: GHOSTS OF THE TOWERS

A cloud of gloom hovered over New York as people gathered on Thursday to mark the 24th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, commemorating the victims by reading their names. The 9/11 attacks, carried out by terrorists who hijacked aeroplanes and targeted key locations such as World Trade Centre in the US, resulted in the deaths of 3,000 people ***PHOTO: X/@SEPT11MEMORIA***

Joe's 'ego' led him to run for re-poll: Harris in new book

WASHINGTON, 11 SEPT

Former US Vice President Kamala Harris has called Joe Biden's 2024 re-election bid "reckless," marking a sharp departure from her earlier loyal stance.

In an excerpt from her upcoming memoir '107 Days', Harris writes that Biden's decision was driven more by ego than duty.

In The Atlantic, she describes how the phrase "It's Joe and Jill's decision" became a party-wide mantra, masking concerns about Biden's age and ability to serve.

"Was it grace, or was it recklessness? In retrospect, I think it was recklessness," Harris writes. She entered the 2024 race after Biden dropped out. *— Salar News with Agencies*

PHOTO: PTI

Coup trial: Brazil SC judge votes to acquit Bolsonaro

BRASILA, 11 SEPT

Former Brazilian president **Jair Bolsonaro** gained respite in his coup trial on Wednesday as Supreme Court Justice Luiz Fux voted to acquit him of all charges, breaking with two peers who had already voted to convict. Bolsonaro, 70, faces accusations of attempting to cling to power after his 2022 defeat to President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Prosecutors charged him with five offences, including staging a coup and forming an armed criminal group. Fux dismissed the charges, arguing Bolsonaro's acts did not constitute a coordinated coup and questioning the court's jurisdiction. With two justices still to vote, a simple majority of three is enough for conviction, leaving Bolsonaro's fate undecided. *—PTI*

Pak declares climate emergency amid floods

ISLAMABAD, 11 SEPT

Pakistan's government, led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, has approved a climate and agricultural emergency as widespread flooding devastates the nation. During a federal cabinet meeting, Sharif emphasised the need for a coordinated strategy with provincial Chief Ministers to mitigate further climate change damage. The cabinet discussed extensive losses, including the destruction of millions of acres of farmland. Federal Minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhry noted that unchecked deforestation and encroachments have exacerbated flooding. The climate emergency aims to evaluate agricultural damage and establish compensation mechanisms for affected farmers. Sharif warned that the situation remains critical. *—ANI*

Ex-SL Prez to vacate official residence

COLOMBO, 11 SEPT

Former Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapaksa is set to leave his official residence in Colombo following the passage of a new law that strips former presidents of their privileges. Rajapaksa, who has occupied the Cinnamon Gardens residence since 2015, will move to his private home in Tangalle. The Sri Lankan Parliament voted overwhelmingly (151-1) to enact the "Presidents' Entitlement (Repeal) Act No 18 of 2025." This legislation, which was facilitated by a recent Supreme Court ruling, targets former presidents and their widows. The bill was a response to public dissatisfaction with the Rajapaksa family's dominance, following an uprising in 2022 that ousted Mahinda's brother. *—PTI*

Turkish broadcaster seized for tax fraud

ISTANBUL, 11 SEPT

One of Turkey's largest television news broadcasters, Haberturk, has been confiscated by the state in connection with a fraud, tax evasion, and money laundering investigation. The seizure of Haberturk, operated by Can Holding, is part of a broader crackdown involving 121 companies, as reported by state media. Arrest warrants were issued for ten executives linked to Can Holding following revelations of illicit financial activities, including the use of forged documents for tax reduction. The Kucukcekmece Chief Public Prosecutor's Office stated that some company operations were financed by criminal revenues. Despite the seizure, Haberturk continued operating normally on Thursday, amidst ongoing concerns about government influence over the media. *—PTI*

GEN Z WANTS TO DISSOLVE NEPALI PARL

Call for amending constitution, say they don't want to take power; Analysts flag conspiracy

Security was heightened near the Nepali Prime Minister's official residence and administration buildings, as Kathmandu was largely peaceful on Thursday; The Army had imposed curfew in the Himalayan nation, but protests continued in the capital

PHOTOS: PTI

KATHMANDU, 11 SEPT

A youth-led Gen Z group, which spearheaded the anti-government protests in Nepal, Thursday said that Parliament must be dissolved and the Constitution should be amended to reflect the will of the people.

The Gen Z protesters organised a press meet in Kathmandu, while some of their representatives met President Ramchandra Paudel and Army Chief Ashok Raj Sigdel at the Army Headquarters.

Diwakar Dangal, Amit Baniya and Junal Dangal - representatives of the Gen Z group - said they don't intend to assume leadership of the country, but rather become just a watchdog.

"This is purely a civilian movement, so don't try to play politics with this," one activist warned political parties.

Another activist said that the Parliament must be dissolved and the Constitution should be amended as per the spirit of the people.

CONSPIRACY ANGLE?

The uncanny resemblances with the violent overthrow of establishments in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have led observers in Nepal to consider the possibility of a "larger conspiracy".

"The vandalism and the mindless violence that have taken place since then are clearly the handiwork of external and unknown actors," said Namrata Sharma, Kathmandu-based senior journalist and Vice President of the Nepal chapter of South Asian Women in Media (SAWM).

Sharma maintained that there has been no investigation so far into identifying these people, and there was an urgent need for such a probe.

"This escalation was definitely not part of Gen Z's plan. It seems now that these external forces were keenly observing the initial developments from the sidelines and jumped into the fray," she said.

"The conspirators in Nepal have lit the fire but have little control over the means to douse it," said CK Lal, author and political analyst.

"Going by the nature of coordinated attacks that have happened across the country, it seems some preparations have been made behind them for some time. The social media ban lasted for only four days. There's no way such violent repercussions could have been orchestrated in such a short span," he said. *—PTI*

A viral video shows several Nepali ministers and kin being airlifted during the violent protests outside the Parliament ***PHOTO: SCREENGRAB***

Indian border guards nab 60 inmates who escaped Nepali jails

The Sashastra Seema Bal that guards the India-Nepal border has caught about 60 people along the international front, officials said. Most of them are Nepalese who are suspected to have escaped in jailbreaks. SSB troops caught them from border points in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal over the last two days, the officials said. They have been handed over to the respective state police forces and are being questioned, they said. A few of those nabbed claims to be of Indian origin, although this is being verified.

Qatar PM says Bibi 'killed any hope' for the hostages

DOHA, 11 SEPT

Qatar's Prime Minister said his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu "killed any hope" of releasing hostages still held in the Gaza Strip after Israel attacked Hamas leaders in Doha.

"I was meeting one of the hostage's families the morning of the attack," Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said late Wednesday. "They are counting on this (ceasefire) mediation, they have no other hope for that."

Sheikh Mohammed added: "I think that what Netanyahu has done yesterday, he just killed any hope for those hostages."

He said Netanyahu must be "brought to justice" for "state terrorism".

Israel's attacks on Doha killed at least six people. Although Israel said it eliminated a Hamas leader, the organisation denied it, and said that Netanyahu killed its chief negotiator instead.

Sheikh Mohammed was also expected to attend a UN Security Council meeting later Thursday.

An Israeli strike in Gaza ***PHOTO: PTI***

39 people were killed in the Gaza Strip on Thursday. The IDF said at least 2,00,000 people forced out of Gaza City over the past 2 weeks.

Qatar and Egypt have been key mediators to try and reach a Gaza ceasefire. Qatar has hosted Hamas' political leadership for years in Doha, in part over a request by the US.

However, Netanyahu continued to defend the strikes and threatened further action against Qatar.

"I say to Qatar and all nations who harbour terrorists, you either expel them or you bring them to justice," Netanyahu said. "Because if you don't, we will."

Israel had also bombed Yemen's capital Sanaa, killing at least 35 people.

"We will continue (to strike," Netanyahu said.

—Agencies

Muslim nations must unite to stop Israel: Pak PM

DOHA, 11 SEPT

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif urged Muslim countries to unite against Israeli aggression as he met the Qatari Emir and expressed solidarity with Doha.

Shehbaz Sharif, who travelled to Qatar on a day-long visit, held a "very warm and cordial meeting" with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, according to an official statement.

"Israel's brazen aggression in the Middle East must be stopped, and the Ummah needed unity among its ranks in the face of Israeli provocations," Sharif said.

He conveyed Pakistan's strongest condemnation of the Israeli attack, calling it a blatant and flagrant violation of Qatar's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the statement said.

He said that the "Pakistan (was) deeply disturbed by this attack.... which constituted a serious breach of international law" .

Sharif assured the Qatari leadership of Pakistan's full solidarity and support.

The Emir thanked Pakistan for its stance and reaffirmed their brotherly ties.

. *—PTI*

Poland to modernise military after Russian threat: Tusk

WARSAW, 11 SEPT

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk pledged to push ahead with a "great modernisation programme" for his country's military, a day after Russian drones crossed into Poland and forced NATO to confront a potential threat in its airspace for the first time.

Poland said some of the drones that entered its airspace on Wednesday came from Belarus, where Russian and local troops have begun gathering for war games scheduled to start Friday. Poland closed its border with Belarus at midnight Thursday.

The Polish Air Navigation Agency announced Thursday morning that Poland was introducing air traffic restrictions in the eastern part of the country.

"We will do everything to ensure that our allied obligations.... are fulfilled by our allies," Tusk said.

The US is also expected to send F-35 fighter jets to Poland staring next year.

US President Donald Trump spoke Wednesday with Polish President Karol Nawrocki. Following the call, Nawrocki said the conversation "confirmed the unity of our alliance." *—PTI*

MEXICO SLAPS 50% TARIFFS ON CHINA

MEXICO CITY, 11 SEPT

In a move aimed at bolstering domestic production and countering tariffs imposed by the Trump administration, Mexico will introduce import taxes of up to 50 per cent on over 1,400 products from China and other Asian nations. President Claudia Sheinbaum announced the tariffs in her administration's budget proposal, which targets products crucial to the automotive sector, a major component of Mexico's manufacturing, accounting for 23 per cent.

The tariffs will affect light vehicles, auto parts, textiles, shoes, plastics, electronics, and toys, among others. Economy Secretary Marcelo Ebrard said the new tariffs will apply to 8.6 per cent of Mexico's imports from countries without free trade agreements. *—PTI*

UK fires ambassador to US over Epstein links

LONDON, 11 SEPT

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Thursday fired the country's ambassador to the US, Peter Mandelson, over his links to the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

In a statement in the House of Commons on Thursday, Foreign Office minister Stephen Doughty said the decision came in the wake of the publication this week of emails Mandelson sent to Epstein in the 2000s, in which he gave his support to the disgraced financier even when he was facing jail for sex offences.

Peter Mandelson ***PHOTO: X***

Doughty pointed to Mandelson's suggestion that Epstein's first conviction in 2008 was "wrongful and should be challenged."

"I think the world of you," Mandelson reportedly told Epstein before the latter began his sentence for soliciting prostitution from a minor.

The decision to fire Mandelson comes just a day after Starmer said he had "confidence" in him. Last week, Starmer also saw his deputy, Angela Rayner, quit over a tax error on a home purchase.

The focus on Mandelson over his links to Epstein accentuated this week after the Democrats on the House Oversight Committee released a 50th birthday album compiled in 2003 for Epstein, who at the time was a wealthy and well-connected financier. In that album, Mandelson called Epstein "my best pal" in a handwritten note. *—PTI*

INT'L SANCTIONS CUT FUNDS

5th full blackout in 2yrs hits Cuba

HAVANA, 11 SEPT

A total blackout hit Cuba on Wednesday, the latest in a series of outages blamed on ageing infrastructure and fuel shortages at power plants. It was the second island-wide outage this year, with three other blackouts reported late last year.

The Ministry of Energy and Mines said on X that the latest outage could be tied to a malfunction at one of Cuba's biggest thermoelectric plants.

Argelio Abad, the ministry's vice minister, said on state TV that the grid shut down after an apparently erroneous message warning of overheating disconnected the thermoelectric plant. He added that officials immediately began to build a type of microsystem to deliver electricity to infrastructure that provides basic services.

The outage is likely due to a malfunction at one of Cuba's biggest thermoelectric plants ***PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE***

The ministry said crews were working to restore power to the island of roughly 10 million people, with electricity returning to hospitals, food production plants and other high-priority businesses.

Some Cubans, like 65-year-old Mayte Garcia, believed they would be without power for a couple of days.

She said she was "outside, taking in the fresh air" as she waited for electricity to return.

"If you buy something, you don't know if you'll be able to keep it. Many people's food has spoiled," Garci said of items in refrigerators and freezers.

There is a severe economic and energy supply crisis in Cuba, which has worsened due to US sanctions intended to put pressure on the island to change its political model.

The sanctions have prevented the Caribbean nation from having sufficient foreign currency to buy fuel or buy equipment to repair its ageing thermoelectric plants, many of which have been operating for more than 30 years.

In February, the government suspended classes and work activities for two days due to a shortage in electricity generation. *—PTI*

Amazon rolls out 10-min delivery in Mumbai

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

E-commerce major Amazon on Thursday said it has expanded its 10-minute delivery service, Amazon Now, to select parts of Mumbai, following successful rollouts in Bengaluru and Delhi. Amazon has opened more than 100 micro-fulfilment centres across the three cities to enable faster deliveries and plans to open hundreds more by the end of the year, the company said in a statement. Amazon Now, currently operational in select pincodes, will continue expanding and plans to launch in other cities in the coming months, the company said. *—PTI*

Odisha hikes EV 2-wheeler subsidy to ₹30K

BHUBANESWAR, 11 SEPT

The Odisha government will raise the electric two-wheeler registration subsidy from Rs 20,000 to Rs 30,000 under its draft Electric Vehicle Policy-2025. The new policy, valid for five years post-feedback, offers Rs 5,000 per kWh of battery capacity, capped at Rs 30,000. With high-capacity EVs entering the market, the move aims to boost adoption. Subsidies for three-wheelers, four-wheelers, taxis, trucks, and buses are also revised. Incentives range from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 20 lakh depending on vehicle size. Residents can claim benefits once per segment. A Rs 15 crore R&D fund is proposed. The state targets 50 per cent EV registrations by 2030, up from the current nine. *—PTI*

GOLD CLIMBS ₹100 TO NEW RECORD HIGH

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

Gold prices surged Rs 100 to hit an all-time high of Rs 1,13,100 per 10 grams in Delhi on Thursday, driven by sustained stockist buying and global uncertainties, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

Prices of 99.5 per cent purity gold also rose Rs 100 to Rs 1,12,600 per 10 grams (inclusive of taxes). Gold has rallied by Rs 34,150 or 43.25 per cent in 2025, up from Rs 78,950 on December 31, 2024.

Experts attribute the rally to inflation concerns, weakening US growth, heavy central bank buying, strong ETF inflows, and geopolitical tensions. "Gold has become the safe-haven of choice, though current levels carry volatility risks," said Sandip Raichura of PL Capital.

Internationally, however, gold softened, with spot gold down 0.52 per cent at USD 3,621.91 per ounce and silver at USD 41.01.

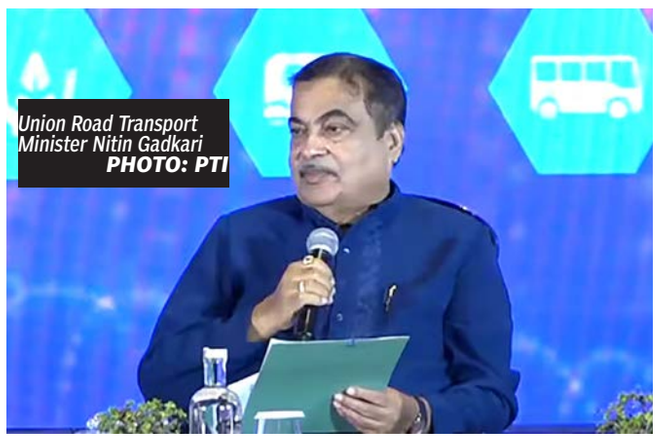
Investors await the US inflation report, which may shape the Federal Reserve's next interest rate move, said Saumil Gandhi of HDFC Securities.

Renisha Chainani of Augmont added that Asian ETF flows have played a key role in gold's surge. *—PTI*

'Campaign against E20 was paid to target me'

Union Transport Minister called it 'politically motivated'

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT


Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari PHOTO: PTI

- Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said the social media rage over blending of 20 per cent ethanol in petrol fuel was a "paid campaign" to target him politically.

Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said the social media rage over blending of 20 per cent ethanol in petrol fuel was a "paid campaign" to target him politically.

Speaking at the annual convention of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Gadkari said that there was a clarity on the E20 (20 per cent ethanol blended petrol) with the stakeholders, including the automobile industry.

When asked about the concerns, Gadkari said that all stakeholders, including ARAI (Automobile Research Association of India), and SIAM, have shared their findings. Moreover, the Supreme Court ruling is also very clear on this, the minister noted.

"I will just say that whatever it was, there was no truth in it. Everything has been clarified," Gadkari said. The impact of E20 fuel on vehicles, including decline in fuel economy and on engine parts, became a debate on social media with many claiming drop in mileage ranging up to 20 per cent.

The Congress had recently said that Gadkari had been "aggressively lobbying" for ethanol production while his two sons are involved in firms that produce ethanol and "benefited" from the government policy. The party had also challenged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to announce a probe by the Lokpal on the 'conflict of interest'.

The minister further said India's fuel import bill is around Rs 22 lakh crore and said E20 is an import substitute, which is cost-effective, pollution-free and indigenous.

The government has decided to make ethanol from corn and farmers benefited by Rs 45,000 crore from this.

Automaker Mahindra & Mahindra on Thursday said vehicles produced post 1 April, 2025, are specially calibrated for E20 fuel to ensure acceleration and fuel efficiency, it added.

"Earlier produced vehicles whilst being completely safe to drive could see a minor variation in either acceleration or fuel efficiency depending on driving behaviour," it added. *—PTI*

BOON AMID TARRIFS

Seafood exports get boost as EU lists 102 fisheries

KOCHI, 11 SEPT

PHOTO: PTI

In a major boost to India's seafood industry, the European Union (EU) has approved 102 additional Indian fishery establishments for export to EU member states, bringing the total number of EU-approved units to 604, the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) announced.

This development is expected to help Indian exporters expand their presence in the high-value European seafood market, particularly at a time when the US has imposed steep tariffs on Indian goods. The move follows extensive discussions between Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and EU counterparts to build trust in India's seafood safety standards.

The EU is India's third-largest seafood export destination, accounting for 15.10 per cent of total exports. In 2024–25, India exported 215,080 metric tonnes of marine products worth Rs 9,429.56 crore (USD 1.13 billion) to the EU. Overall, India exported 16,98,170 MT of seafood worth Rs 62,408.45 crore (USD 7.45 billion), with frozen shrimp leading in both volume and value.

MPEDA highlighted India's low 1.5 per cent share of the EU's USD 67.84 billion seafood imports, indicating strong potential for growth, especially in shrimp, squid, and value-added products.

The seafood sector welcomed the approval, calling it a timely opportunity to offset the impact of US tariffs. *—PTI*

RUPEE TUMBLES AT ALL-TIME LOW AGAINST USD AGAIN

MUMBAI, 11 SEPT

The rupee plunged 36 paise to close at a record low of 88.47 against the US dollar on Thursday, weighed down by escalating US-India tariff tensions, rising crude prices, and persistent foreign fund outflows.

Forex traders cited the strengthening US dollar, ahead of key US inflation data and Federal Reserve cues, as adding to pressure on the domestic currency. The rupee opened at 88.11 and touched an intraday low of 88.47 before closing at the same level.

This marks the rupee's weakest-ever closing, surpassing its previous record of 88.15 on 2 September. Earlier this week, it had touched an intraday low of 88.38 but recovered slightly.

"The rupee remains under pressure from strong dollar demand, tariff concerns, and expectations of a rate differential widening between India and the US," said Anil Kumar Bhansali of Finrex Treasury Advisors.

Brent crude, trading at USD 67.32 per barrel, has also added pressure. Meanwhile, the dollar index rose 0.22 per cent to 97.99. Anuj Choudhary of Mirae Asset ShareKhan expects a negative bias for the rupee amid FII outflows and import-led dollar demand, though positive domestic equities and renewed US-India trade talks may provide some support. *—PTI*

JioBlackRock to launch first equity fund on 23 Sept

KOLKATA, 11 SEPT

JioBlackRock Mutual Fund announced the launch of its first active equity product, the JioBlackRock FlexiCap Fund, scheduled to open on 23 September. Built on BlackRock's globally proven Systematic Active Equity (SAE) platform, the fund employs a rules-based, predominantly machine-driven investment process that tracks over 400 signals.

Rishi Kohli, Chief Investment Officer of JioBlackRock AMC, said the fund aims to minimise key-person risk, reduce cognitive biases, and deliver consistent returns with a focus on downside protection. Around 95 per cent of investment decisions will be technology-driven.

The fund will maintain a controlled active risk of 3–4 per cent, lower than industry averages. A 10-year simulation suggests potential outperformance of 3–4 per cent over the benchmark index, consistent with results seen in other BlackRock country funds.

Three to four more active equity funds are in the pipeline for this fiscal, along with future ETF offerings.

JioBlackRock, a joint venture between Jio Financial Services and BlackRock, received its licence in May and currently manages Rs 18,000 crore across eight cash and index funds, with a focus on digital distribution. *—PTI*

MARKET WATCH

Nifty closes above 25K pts for 7th day, Sensex up for 4th

MUMBAI, 11 SEPT

Equity benchmarks ended higher on Thursday, supported by strong global cues and renewed hopes of a US Fed rate cut. The BSE Sensex rose 123.58 points or 0.15 per cent to close at 81,548.73, marking its fourth consecutive gain. It touched an intraday high of 81,642.22.

The NSE Nifty advanced 32.40 points or 0.13 per cent to finish at 25,005.50, its highest in nearly three weeks, extending its winning streak to seven sessions. Top gainers on the Sensex included NTPC, Axis Bank, Power Grid, Bharti Airtel, Eternal and Sun Pharma. On the downside were Infosys, Titan, UltraTech Cement and Hindustan Unilever.

Vinod Nair of Geojit Investments said the Nifty's climb above the key 25,000 level followed positive signals from the US on trade discussions, despite earlier concerns over a 50 per cent US tariff on Indian goods. Ajit Mishra of Religare Broking noted markets moved in a narrow range, pausing after recent gains.

Sectorally, energy, pharma, oil & gas, power and telecom led gains, while IT, auto, and consumer discretionary saw profit booking. FIIs sold equities worth Rs 115.69 crore, while DIIs bought stocks worth Rs 5,004.29 crore. Brent crude slipped 0.24 per cent to USD 67.28 a barrel. *—PTI*

SpiceJet share price jumps 5%

SpiceJet shares jumped over 5 per cent on Thursday, touching Rs 34.85 intraday on the BSE, after announcing a $89.5 million liquidity boost through a settlement with Carlyle Aviation Partners. The deal unlocks $79.6 million in cash reserves for aircraft and engine maintenance, plus $9.9 million in credits to offset lease dues. The agreement, part of a $121.18 million lease restructuring, includes a $50 million equity issuance.

India to soon offer large carbon capture incentives

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

The Centre is set to launch a Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) Mission with incentives ranging from 50 to 100 per cent, according to NITI Aayog. The initiative aims to balance India's rising energy demand with its climate goals, while continuing to rely on coal for power generation.

CCUS involves capturing carbon dioxide from industrial and power sector emissions before it enters the atmosphere. The captured CO_2 is then either utilised in products such as chemicals and fuels or stored underground in geological formations like depleted oil and gas reservoirs or saline aquifers.

Speaking at the 17th India Coal Summit organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Rajnath Ram, Advisor (Energy), NITI Aayog, said the incentives would help integrate CCUS technology into coal-based energy systems, which remain vital despite the push for renewables.

Coal currently meets over 70 per cent of India's electricity demand. Even with plans to install 500 GW of renewable capacity by 2030, fossil fuels will still be necessary to meet baseload requirements.

India's per capita CO_2 emissions are around 1.9 tonnes annually, less than 40 per cent of the global average and a quarter of China's. CCUS is seen as critical for decarbonising sectors responsible for 70 per cent of emissions and achieving India's net-zero target by 2070. *—PTI*

Adani bags 1,600 MW thermal project in MP

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

Adani Power Ltd (APL) has bagged a 1,600 MW ultra-supercritical thermal power project from MP Power Management Company Ltd (MPPMCL) and will invest Rs 21,000 crore to set up the plant in Anuppur, Madhya Pradesh.

APL, India's largest private thermal power producer, received a Letter of Award (LoA) for an additional 800 MW under the 'Greenshoe Option', following an earlier award of 800 MW in the same tender. Both units will operate at a tariff of Rs 5.838/kWh and be commissioned within 60 months under the design, build, finance, own and operate (DBFOO) model.

This marks the first use of the greenshoe option in a thermal power tender in India, aimed at meeting Madhya Pradesh's rising power demand due to growing industrialisation.

The project will have coal linkage under the SHAKTI Policy and is expected to generate 9,000–10,000 jobs during construction and 2,000 during operations. A power supply agreement will be executed soon.

This is Adani Power's fifth major order in 12 months, raising total awarded capacity to 7,200 MW. The company currently operates 18,110 MW across 12 plants and aims to reach 41,870 MW by 2031–32. *—PTI*

BACK ON TOP

Musk is world's richest man, day after losing to Oracle head

AUSTIN, 11 SEPT

- Oracle's Chief Technology Officer became the world's richest on Wednesday after his net worth jumped $101 billion in a single day.

Just a day after losing the world's richest man title to Oracle co-founder Larry Ellison, Elon Musk is back to top the list.

Oracle's Chief Technology Officer became the world's richest on Wednesday after his net worth jumped $101 billion in a single day. The Tesla CEO and SpaceX founder has held the title for the last four years.

Musk's net worth is $384 billion and according to Bloomberg Billionaires Index, he added $573 million in a day. Ellison's net worth was $393 billion for a brief period, before it fell to $383 billion.

Oracle's cloud revenue forecast stuns Wall Street

Oracle stunned Wall Street with a 40 per cent surge in its stock price, the largest single-day jump ever, after its CEO Safra Catz projected cloud infrastructure revenue to grow 77 per cent to $18 billion by May 2026, and $144 billion by 2030.

The jump was not driven by better-than-expected quarterly results, which actually missed estimates, but by Oracle's optimistic outlook. The company revealed $455 billion in outstanding contract revenue from four multi-billion-dollar deals with three customers, a 359 per cent increase from last year. A key driver is Oracle's partnership with the unprofitable OpenAI, a major AI customer whose future profitability remains uncertain. However, analysts warn the forecast is heavily reliant on OpenAI, which faces massive cash burn projected at $115 billion through 2029.

—Agencies

INDIA MULLS ANTI-DUMPING DUTY ON GLASS FIBRE

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), under the Commerce Ministry, has recommended anti-dumping duty for five years on imports of glass fibre from China, Bahrain, and Thailand. The move aims to protect domestic manufacturers from cheap inbound shipments.

DGTR concluded that glass fibre—used in electricals—is being dumped in India at prices below normal value. It has proposed duties ranging from USD 194 to USD 394 per tonne. DGTR has initiated a sunset review investigation into the continued need for anti-dumping duty on imports of 2-Ethyl Hexanol, a chemical used in the adhesive industry.

It covers imports from the European Union, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan, and the US, following a request from Andhra Petrochemicals Ltd. Anti-dumping measures are designed to ensure fair trade and protect local industries from injury caused by low-priced imports. *—PTI*

RMG firms have pulled off sponsorship of the Indian cricket team and also laid off many PHOTO: PTI

Dream11, 3 others startups off unicorn list after e-gaming law

MUMBAI, 11 SEPT

TAs many as 4 startups, including Dream11 and Games24x7, have lost the coveted unicorn status after the government introduced a law to regulate the activities of real money gaming (RMG) companies, a report said on Thursday.

The other two RMG startups who are off the unicorn list are Gameskraft (30 million users) and Mobile Premier League (90 million). Dream11 has 260 million users while Games24x7 has 120 million. RMG firms have pulled off sponsorship of the Indian cricket team and also laid off many.

The 'ASK Private Wealth Hurun India Unicorn and Future Unicorn Report 2025' said the valuations of popular 'Zupee' and 'Winzo Games', which were not unicorns, have also been impacted.

Unicorns are startups with a valuation of over USD 1 billion.

Last month, Parliament passed a bill to ban online money games and promote eSports and online social gaming.

However, the overall number of Indian startups in the unicorn list grew by six to 73 this year. This year saw 11 new unicorns, including Ai.tech, Navi Technologies and Rapido. Discount brokerage Zerodha was the most valuable startup at USD 8.2 billion. Bengaluru leads as India's unicorn hub with 26 startups. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Washington Sundar joins Hampshire

LONDON, 11 SEPT

India's Washington Sundar has joined Hampshire for their last two matches of the 2025 Championship campaign, the English county side announced on Thursday, weeks after the all-rounder emerged as one of the breakout stars of the Test series against England in the UK.Hampshire signed the 25-year-old all-rounder for their matches against Somerset and Surrey."A signing we are certain of. Welcome, Washi. Indian all-rounder Sundar will join the Rose and Crown for our final two @countychamp matches," Hampshire Cricket posted on X.Giles, Director of Cricket at Hampshire, expressed his happiness at the signing of a player who excelled during the intensely fought five-match Test series between Indian and England earlier this summer.—*PTI*

SA wins rain affected first T20 by 14 runs

CARDIFF, 11 SEPT

South Africa won a rain-shortened first Twenty20 international by 14 runs after England failed to chase down a revised target of 69 off five overs in Cardiff. England's batters tried to slog pretty much every delivery to the boundary but could only manage 54-5 at Sophia Gardens on Wednesday night. Rain initially reduced the match to a nine-overs-per-side contest, and the Proteas, after being put into bat, made 97-5 off 7.5 overs before another heavy shower arrived in the Welsh capital, further truncating the game. Captain Aiden Markram top-scored with a 14-ball 28, while Donovan Ferreira (25 not out) and Dewald Brevis (23) chipped in. "You need one or two guys to have a good cameo and you get a good score," Markram said.—*PTI*

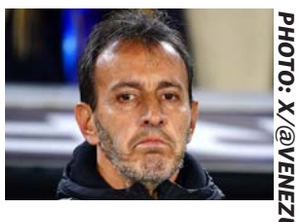


PHOTO: X/@VENEZUELA

Venezuela sacks coach after World Cup hopes end

LONDON, 11 SEPT

Venezuela sacked coach Fernando Batista on Wednesday night, a day after its World Cup qualification dream died and after an intervention by the country's president. News of Argentine Batista's sacking, alongside his entire backroom staff, came after President Nicolas Maduro had called for a "restructuring of the technical staff". That was 24 hours after Venezuela, known as the Vinotinto, were thumped 6-3 at home by neighbour Colombia, ending its hopes of reaching a World Cup for the first time.—*PTI*

Badminton to trial a shot clock to ensure fast games

DUBAI, 11 SEPT

In a bid to add more pace to badminton matches, the sport's global governing body (BWF) has approved the testing of a time-clock system at select World Tour tournaments starting in 2026 that would require shuttlers to be ready for play within 25 seconds of a completed rally. At its Council meeting on 29 August 2025, BWF (Badminton World Federation) confirmed that the first official enforcement trials will begin during Week 47 of this year (18–23 November 2025) at select BWF World Tour tournaments. These trials will continue and expand through 2026, when the system will be tested more broadly. —*PTI*

ICC unveils historic all-female match officials for women's WC 2025

DUBAI, 11 SEPT

Insisting that it was more than a symbolic gesture, the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Thursday announced an all-female officials line-up for the ODI World Cup, which begins later this month in India and Sri Lanka.

The tournament will begin with a clash between joint hosts India and Sri Lanka in Guwahati on 30 September.

The umpiring panel includes former India players Vrinda Rathi, N Janani, and Gayathri Venugopalan. The first-ever female match referee, GS Laksmi, also a former Indian cricketer, will be a part of the four-member match-referee panel.

The troika of Claire Polosak, Jacqueline Williams, and Sue Redfern is set to officiate in their third women's World Cup event, the ICC said, adding that Lauren Agenbag and Kim Cotton will be at their second such event.

"The inclusion of an all-women panel of match officials is not only a major milestone but also a powerful reflection of the ICC's unwavering commitment to advancing gender equity across cricket," ICC Chairman Jay Shah said.

"This development goes beyond symbolic value. It is about visibility, opportunity, and the creation of meaningful role models who can inspire future generations."

Eight teams are competing in the tournament across five venues, including Colombo. The event will conclude on 2 November.

Officials:

Match referees: Trudy Anderson, Shandre Fritz, GS Lakshmi, Michell Pereira.

Umpires: Lauren Agenbag, Candace La Borde, Kim Cotton, Sarah Dambanevana, Shathira Jakir Jesy, Kerrin Klaste, Janani N, Nimali Perera, Claire Polosak, Vrinda Rathi, Sue Redfern, Eloise Sheridan, Gayathri Venugopalan, Jacqueline Williams. —*PTI*

The troika of Claire Polosak, Jacqueline Williams, and Sue Redfern is set to officiate in their third women's WC event **PHOTO: ICC**

Gatha reaches pre-quarters as Deepika crashes out

GWANGJU, 11 SEPT

India's most decorated archer, Deepika Kumari, once again failed to rise above her familiar inconsistency, crashing out in the round of 32 at the World Championships here on Thursday, while 15-year-old Gatha Khadake shone bright to become the lone recurve archer from the country in the pre-quarterfinals.

Despite being seeded into the third round after a sixth-place finish in qualification, the four-time Olympian Deepika was outshot by Indonesia's unheralded Diananda Choirunisa in a five-setter.

All eyes will now be on Friday's round of 16, where Gatha faces the toughest challenge of her budding career against the reigning Paris Olympic champion and world No. 1 Lim Si-hyeon.

The 22-year-old Korean, in red-hot form, had eliminated Ankita Bhakat 6-2 with six perfect 10s across two sets.

For India, the young Gatha remains their last hope, and it remains to be seen if the debutant from Pune manages to win the country its first medal in the recurve section, since Den Bosch in 2019. —*PTI*

Pak open against Oman before India blockbuster

Pak entered the tournament on the back of a strong performance

DUBAI, 11 SEPT

Pakistan will look to fine-tune their game ahead of the high-profile Asia Cup clash against India when they face minnows Oman in their opening Group A match here on Friday.

India and Pakistan, both former champions, are strong contenders to face each other again in the Super 4 and possibly in the much-anticipated final.

Speaking to reporters on Thursday, **Kapil Dev** said, "Just go and win. Those whose job is to play should just focus on playing. Pakistan entered the tournament on the back of a strong performance, winning the T20 Tri-Series by beating Afghanistan by 75 runs in the final. Mohammad Nawaz's hat-trick sealed a comprehensive victory in the series, which also featured the UAE. Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha sat out the majority of his side's practice session on Wednesday due to a neck spasm, raising concerns about his fitness ahead of their crucial Asia Cup clash against arch-rivals India. While he accompanied the rest of the squad to the ICC Cricket Academy in Dubai, Agha was seen walking around with a bandage wrapped around his neck —*PTI*

Pakistan and Oman will feature in the fourth game **PHOTO: PTI**

Pakistan vs Oman Match starts at 8.00 pm IST

SC refuses plea against India-Pak cricket match

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT

The Supreme Court on Thursday refused urgent listing of a plea seeking cancellation of the cricket match between India and Pakistan in the upcoming Asia Cup.

The matter was mentioned before the court by a lawyer for urgent listing.

"What is the urgency? It's a match, let it be. Match is this Sunday, what can be done?" the court said.

The lawyer submitted that the cricket match was scheduled on 14 September and the petition would become infructuous if the matter was not listed on 12 September.

The petition filed by four law students led by Urvashi Jain said organising a cricket match with Pakistan in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor sends a message inconsistent with national dignity and public sentiment.

The match will take place at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium for the 2025 Asia Cup. "Cricket between nations is meant to show harmony and friendship. But after the Phalagam terror attack and Operation Sindoor, when our people died and our soldiers risked everything.....we are celebrating sports with the same country sheltering terrorists (sic)," the plea submitted.

The petitioners added that the dignity of nation and security of citizens came before entertainment.

The plea said a cricket match between the two countries was "detrimental to the national interests" and morale of the armed forces and the nation as a whole. —*PTI*

Hong Kong Open: Satwik-Chirag, Lakshya enter QFs

HONG KONG, 11 SEPT

India's Lakshya Sen reached his first men's singles quarterfinal of a top BWF World Tour event in six months, while Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also advanced at the USD 500,000 Hong Kong Open Super 500 badminton tournament here on Thursday.

Former world championships bronze medallist Lakshya, ranked 20th, rallied past compatriot HS Prannoy 15-21 21-18 21-10 in the second round.

The 23-year-old, who finished fourth at the Paris Olympics, will next face either Japan's Kodai Naraoka or India's Ayush Shetty.

Lakshya, who has battled injuries and patchy form this season, last made the semifinals at the All England Super 1000 in March and reached the same stage at the Macau Open Super 300, but had otherwise endured early exits.

World no. 9 Satwik and Chirag, fresh from their second World Championships bronze in Paris, will next face Malaysia's Junaidi Arif and Roy King Yap.

In the men's singles match, Prannoy looked in good touch as he had a smooth ride in the opening game, leading from start to finish without much ado.

The 33-year-old from Thiruvananthapuram carried the momentum initially, opening up a 4-0 lead after the change of sides, but then a six-point burst helped Lakshya topple his senior pro. It turned out to be a tight battle thereafter as the lead exchanged hands too frequently. —*PTI*

DULEEP TROPHY FINAL

Spinners Saransh Jain (5/49) and Kumar Kartikeya (4/53) were all over the South Zone batters **PHOTO: PTI**

CZ takes command after poor batting leaves South in a hole

BENGALURU, 11 SEPT

A poor batting effort left South Zone in a hole on the first day of its Duleep Trophy final against Central Zone at the BCCI CoE Ground (1) in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Dreadful shot selection, a lack of temperament, and a clumsy run-out caused South Zone to be dismissed for a paltry 149. Spinners Saransh Jain (5/49) and Kumar Kartikeya (4/53) kept it tight and reaped huge rewards.

Spinners Saransh Jain and Kumar Kartikeya exploited the indecisiveness of South Zone batters to share nine wickets between them to hand Central Zone an advantage on the first day of the Duleep Trophy final here on Thursday.

Jain (5/49) and Kartikeya (4/53) bowled 45 overs between them, helping Central bowl out South for a lowly 149 in 63 overs.

Central reached 50 for no loss at stumps, trailing by 99 runs. Danish Malewar (28) and Akshay Wadkar (20) were at the crease at the end of the day.

Jain, who bowled 24 overs on the trot, and Kartikeya, who predominantly bowled traditional left-arm spin compared to the wrist-spin variety, were the chief architects of Central's position of strength.

But the tentative approach of South batters also made the spin twins' job that much easier.

South entered the panic room as early as the 16th over, when opener Mohit Kale (6) decided to play a reckless sweep against Kartikeya to get bowled. It started a period of fragility, as South lost three more wickets before lunch to be placed at 64 for four in 33 overs. —*PTI*

Sachin Tendulkar to be next BCCI President?

MUMBAI, 11 SEPT

Batting legend and former India captain Sachin Tendulkar on Thursday rejected speculation that he is in contention to be the next BCCI President, with his management firm describing all such talk as "unfounded". The 52-year-old's management firm stated on his behalf to put to rest theories of him being a possible successor to Roger Binny, whose tenure ended after he turned 70 in July., "It has come to our attention that certain reports and rumours have been circulating regarding Mr. Sachin Tendulkar being considered, or nominated, for the position of President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)," read a statement from the company. "We wish to categorically state that no such development has taken place. We urge all concerned to refrain from giving credence to unfounded speculations," it added.

The world's richest cricket board is due to hold its elections at its Annual General Meeting on 28 September. Binny was appointed as the BCCI president in October 2022. —*PTI*

Profligate India suffers first defeat

HANGZHOU, 11 SEPT

A wasteful Indian women's hockey team suffered its first defeat of the Asia Cup, going down 1-4 to hosts China in a Super 4s match here on Thursday.

Mumtaz Khan (38') netted India's lone goal, while Zou Meirong (4', 56'), Chen Yang (31'), and Tan Jinzhuang (47') struck for the hosts.

India struggled with finishing and failed to convert any of their three penalty corners.

It was a lively first quarter with both sides attacking the circles and creating good opportunities.

However, it was China who secured the opening goal early on.

In the 4th minute, India did well to make a good save, but the ball landed in front of Meirong on the rebound, and she tapped it into the empty net. —*PTI*

WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

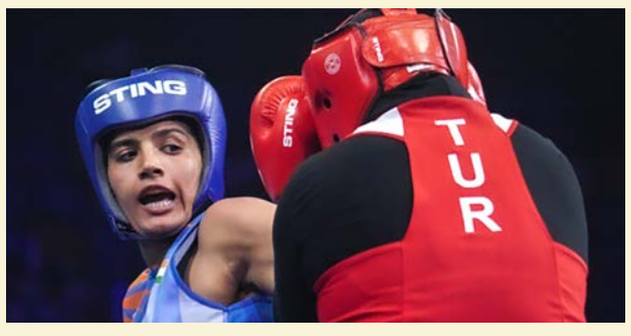
Nupur beats Oltinoy, assures India of a medal

LIVERPOOL, 11 SEPT

Heavyweight boxer Nupur Sheoran assured India of its first medal at the ongoing World Boxing Championships when she defeated Oltinoy Sotimboeva of Uzbekistan to enter the semi-final round on Wednesday night.

Jaismine Lamboria and Nupur Sheoran assured India of two medals at the ongoing World Boxing Championships, while two-time champion Nikhat Zareen bowed out in the quarterfinals here on Wednesday.

Nikhat's hopes of a third consecutive medal ended as the 29-year-old went down 0-5 to two-time Olympic silver medallist Buse Naz Cakiroglu of Turkiye in the 51kg quarterfinals.



Nupur Sheoran in action during the match **PHOTO: X/@WBC**

The bout was always expected to be a stiff challenge for Nikhat, who is returning from injury. Having sparred before the Paris Olympics, both boxers were familiar with each other's style. While Nikhat briefly landed a flurry of hooks, Cakiroglu controlled most of the contest with clean punches. Nikhat rushed to claim the centre of the ring, but Cakiroglu confidently backpedalled, striking the Indian rather easily in the opening round.

There was a passage of play where Nikhat claimed the upper hand, as she hit a flurry of hooks. But the Turkish boxer, who had a point docked, soon regained momentum, landing sharp shots to claim her fourth World Championships medal. —*PTI*

Barcelona faces home game challenges with injuries

MADRID, 11 SEPT

Barcelona approaches its first home game in La Liga missing a few injured players and a proper stadium.

Among a few off-field problems for unbeaten Barcelona, the biggest is its inability to get the newly renovated Camp Nou stadium reopened.

The permits to return to the Camp Nou have not been approved, so the Catalan club will play its first Spanish league home game at a 6,000-seat venue, about 99,000 less than the refurbished Camp Nou offers. The Spanish league, meanwhile, continued to work to get the final approvals to play the Villarreal-Barcelona match in Miami in December. It is hoped for UEFA's approval later Thursday.

"We will be back at the Camp Nou as soon as possible," club president Joan Laporta said on Thursday. On Sunday, when it meets Valencia, Barcelona will use Estadi Johan Cruyff, which typically hosts the Barcelona women's team and the men's reserve and youth squads. —*PTI*